

# ANNALS OF IOWA

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# Annals Contents...

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October, 1958

Davenport and the Civil War	
By TED HINCKLEY .....	401-419
The Legislative Calendar	
By CHARLES ALDRICH .....	420-421
Some Early Iowa Agricultural Organizations	
By MYRTLE BEINHAUER .....	422-433
Interview With a French Trapper	
By JOHN PATTEE .....	434-436
Cedar Brakes and Hamilton Prairie	
By W. E. SANDERS .....	437-456
Snakes in Madison County	
By EDITH WEBBER .....	457-459
An Emigrant's Letter in 1840 .....	460-464
Senator Allison Pays a Debt	
By FREDERICK F. FAVILLE .....	465-466
Historical Materials Wanted .....	467
Iowa People and Events	
Justice Deemer's Views .....	468-470
Seedcorn Specialist Sought Governorship .....	470-471
Those Golden Words of Wisdom .....	471-472
Free Rides on Railroads .....	472-473
Honoring Veterans .....	473-474
Iowa's Notable Dead .....	475-480
Illustrations:	
View of Rock Island .....	Facing Page 401
The Guard at Rock Island Prison .....	Facing Page 411
Map of Cedar Brakes and Hamilton Prairie .....	Facing Page 439

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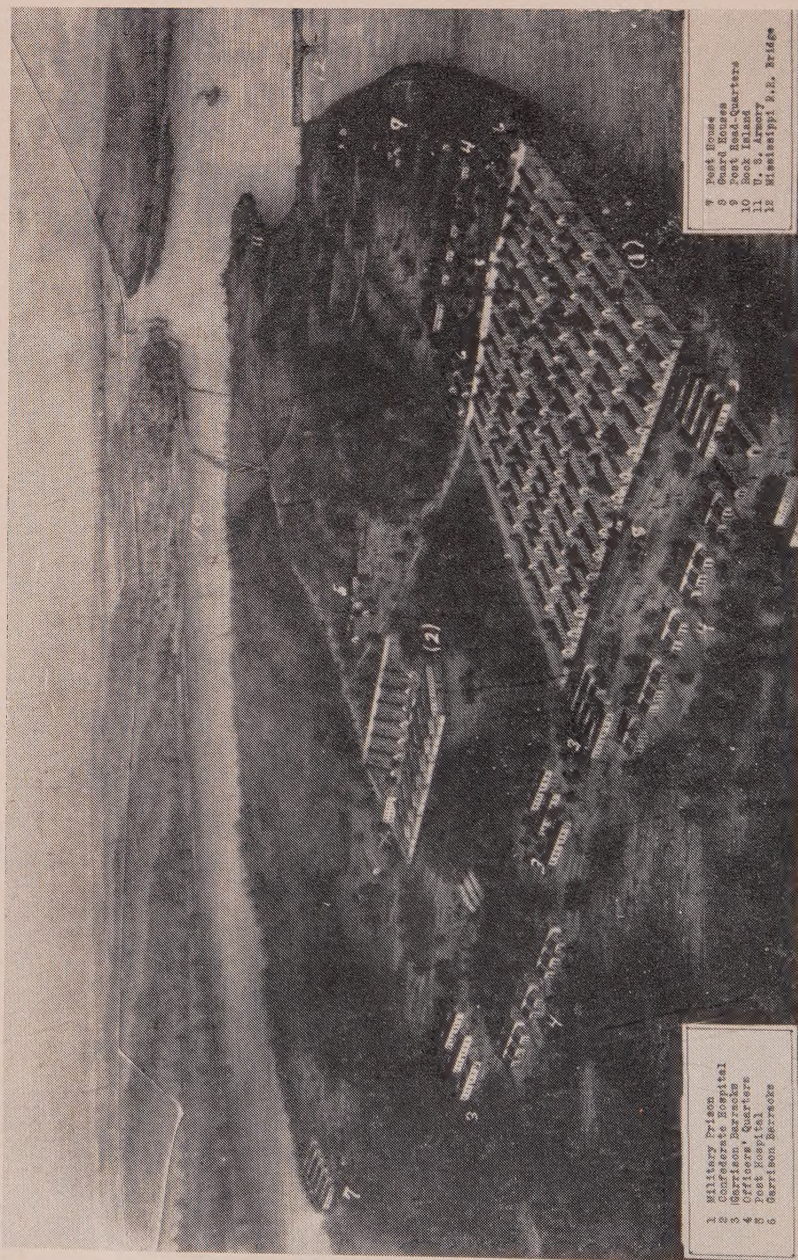
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1 Military Prison  
2 Garrison Barracks  
3 Garrison Barracks  
4 Garrison Barracks  
5 Garrison Barracks  
6 Garrison Barracks

7 Post House  
8 Post House  
9 Post House  
10 Post House  
11 U. S. Army  
12 Mississippi R.R. Bridge

*Courtesy of Rock Island Arsenal*

A view of Rock Island and surrounding area in 1864, looking west.



# *Annals of Iowa*

ESTABLISHED 1863

VOL. XXXIV, No. 6

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THIRD SERIES

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## Davenport and the Civil War

BY TED HINCKLEY\*

The Civil War is often referred to as America's first modern war. Proof of this is the record breaking number of lives expended, the prodigious consumption of material resources and the wide geographic extent of the actual fighting zones. Every Northern and Southern community contributed to the struggle in some manner: most of them gave of their flesh and blood; some became one vast factory or granary; a few served as logistical nerve centers. The region immediately surrounding Davenport, Iowa, presents an interesting and curious example of the military duties performed by one northern Mississippi river community in the years from 1861 to 1865.

When the firing at Fort Sumter announced the separation of the "Southern sisters" the western river town of Davenport was a population center for about 15,000 people. Directly across from it, on the Illinois side of the Mississippi river, was the railroad entrepot of Rock Island. Just four years before, these two cities had been joined by the first bridge to span the nation's greatest river. The erection of that pine and oak, truss-type structure had been facilitated by the Mississippi island known as Rock Island. Federally owned and the site of old Fort

\* Mr. Hinckley is currently completing his doctorate in history at Indiana University. The research for this article was done while he was headmaster of St. Katherine's School in Davenport. He wishes to express his gratitude for their assistance to the staffs of the Davenport Public Museum and the Public Library, and to T. R. Walker, Curator of the Rock Island Arsenal Museum. Recognition should also be given to deceased Davenporters Seth J. Temple whose 1927 paper on "Camp McClellan" (Davenport Public Library files) was most helpful.

Armstrong (1816-1836), the island lay across the river from Davenport and a few hundred feet from the Illinois bank. This three miles of insular real estate and the steamboat decorated levee of Davenport opposite it were to play a significant part, albeit relatively small, in the Civil war.

On April 16, 1861, Iowa's Governor Samuel J. Kirkwood received a telegram from Secretary of War Cameron stating that a call had been made upon him for "one regiment of militia for immediate service." The next day proclamations were issued urging the citizenry to sustain the government and for each county militia to organize into companies.<sup>1</sup> Iowans, like so many of their Northern comrades in arms, were utterly unprepared to fight a shooting war. Governor Kirkwood was unable to find anyone in the capital city who even knew what number of volunteers would actually constitute a regiment. Only after a hurried trip to Davenport to consult the knowledgeable Judge John F. Dillon did he secure a definitive answer.<sup>2</sup> In the pre-war years national holidays had always produced colorful parades by such Hawkeye militia companies as the "Blues," "Guards," and "Rifles." Essentially fraternal in purpose, these volunteer bodies had little military capability. Even worse, the State's ostensible arsenal of weapons was alarmingly short. Iowa, unlike other western states of that day, began the conflict without even a single unit of the regular army within its borders.<sup>3</sup>

Fortunately the State's lack of physical preparedness was counter-balanced by the reassuring war spirit of the Hawkeyes. On June 8, 1861, Governor Kirkwood was able to write to the Secretary of War: "I am overrun with applications of companies for admission into the national service. Our people are loyal, patriotic and devoted. Their

<sup>1</sup> Jacob A. Swisher, *Iowa in Times of War* (Iowa City, Torch Prtg. Co., 1943) p. 154.

<sup>2</sup> G. A. Hannaford, et al., *Wars, Sketches and Incidents* (Des Moines P. C. Kenyon, 1893), p. 370.

<sup>3</sup> John E. Briggs, "The Enlistment of Iowa Troops During the Civil War," *The Iowa Journal of History and Politics*, XV (July, 1917), p. 328.



hearts are with you in the national struggle. Their prayers daily ascend for the President. . ."<sup>4</sup> The most immediate mobilization problem was one of turning farm boys into soldiers. To expedite the organization and training of these volunteer regiments, camps were established in or near most of Iowa's principal cities.

Davenport fortunately possessed the dual advantages of eastern telegraph and railroad links.<sup>5</sup> During the 1850's the burgeoning river town had served as a market terminal for the distribution of substantial quantities of food stuffs. Iowa pork and vegetable crops had been regularly shipped South, even to such distant points as Cuba and Mexico.<sup>6</sup> After April of '61 this extension of Mississippi commerce was shut off. The steamboat facilities, of course, remained and added to the attractiveness of the region as a potential troop rendezvous-training-embarkation center. An important recommendation, particularly in a rebellion, was the strong Union sentiment manifested in and about Davenport. Of the approximately thirty volunteer companies existent in Iowa on the outbreak of hostilities, four had been active in Davenport.<sup>7</sup>

For the above reasons the vicinity became, at various times throughout the Civil war, the site of five military posts, Camp McClellan, Camp Roberts (later called Camp Kinsman), Camp Joe Holt, Camp Herron, and Camp Hendershott, the last three named being in service only during 1861-1862.<sup>8</sup> On August 8, 1861, Newton D. Baker, Adjutant-General of Iowa, after moving his office to Davenport, established Camp McClellan. It was the

<sup>4</sup> *The War of the Rebellion: A Compilation of the Official Records of the Union and Confederate Armies*, Series III, Vol. I (Washington: Government Printing Office, 1880-1901), p. 261. (Hereafter cited as O. R.)

<sup>5</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 86.

<sup>6</sup> Federal Writers' Program, *Iowa, Scott County History, Iowa* (n.p.: WPA, 1942), pp. 57-58.

<sup>7</sup> John E. Briggs, "Enlistments from Iowa During the Civil War," *Iowa and War*, No. 2 (August, 1917), p. 8.

<sup>8</sup> John Ely Briggs (ed.), *The Palimpsest*, XXII, (June, 1941), p. 8. Taken from 1907 privately published account of Benjamin F. Thomas, *Soldier Life*.

first of the city's five military cantonments and remained throughout the war as the foremost among them.

On the scenic grounds of Camp McClellan, situated on the bluffs overlooking the Mississippi river, many a country lad began his martial transformation. The tenacity which he later displayed on the sanguinary bluffs above Pittsburg Landing evidenced that the Davenport transformation had been surprisingly effective. By August 17, the post boasted some twenty military buildings, among which were thirteen barracks, horse stalls, a commissariat, a granary, a guard house, and an officers' quarters. Many of these structures were so miserably erected that they had to be replaced in a few months.<sup>9</sup>

Despite this hasty construction, not all of the volunteer influx could be housed on the Camp grounds. Downtown Davenport buildings, such as the famous Burtis House and the Railway Depot were utilized as stop-gap barracks.<sup>10</sup> This was but one of the many military elements which initially had to bow before necessity. William Stroup Fultz of the 11th Iowa Infantry later recounted how, because of a sparsity of uniforms, citizens could pass in and out of Camp McClellan almost at liberty. No less unmilitary were the pine lath swords with which the soldiers were equipped for sentry duty.<sup>11</sup>

By the end of October some three thousand men were encamped at Camp McClellan and the mobilization crisis had been surmounted. After being mustered in on the 25th of that month, Hawkeye recruit Pete Wilson wrote to his father:

Our shanties are as tight as a good barn, bunked up like a ship two in a bunk. We have plenty of straw and we are very comfortable. Our fare consists of beef, bread, beans, potatoes, rice and coffee, we get plenty to eat and good enough. We are all satisfied with our camp arrangements.<sup>12</sup>

<sup>9</sup> Davenport *Daily Democrat*, August 17, 1861; October 9, 1861; October 12, 1861. (Hereafter cited as *Democrat*.)

<sup>10</sup> *Democrat*, October 11, 1861.

<sup>11</sup> Mildred Throne (ed.), "A History of Co. D, 11th Iowa Infantry, 1861-1865," *Iowa Journal of History*, LV (January, 1957), p. 39.

<sup>12</sup> John Ely Briggs (ed.), "Peter Wilson in the Civil War," *Iowa Journal of History and Politics*, XL (April, 1942), p. 155.



Homesickness and military regimentation annoyed not a few Davenport trainees; however, the good rich soil of Iowa seems to have provided for most of their gastronomic wants.

As must always be the case when large bodies of men are concentrated together, the twin problems of hard liquor and even harder women, beset the five Davenport camps. Soldier White related to his father:

There are many of the soldiers that won't be content to stay at home in the evening, they run the guard and go down town on a spree. When there is a good many out, we sometimes have to go after them and have some fun bringing them back. Not all come back peacably.<sup>13</sup>

Captain C. Barney of the 20th Iowa recollected:

One of them after figuring as principal in a general fight on the levee, and receiving a severe gash on the head from the fragment of an iron pot, was finally captured and brought back to camp lashed down on a dray.<sup>14</sup>

Not all of the female parasites were successful in their forays against Camp McClellan. On one occasion the *Davenport Gazette* reported: "Last evening several women of easy virtue, who were trifling with the soldiers about Camp McClellan Hospital, were treated to a cold bath in the Mississippi by order of the officer in charge."<sup>15</sup>

As early as September 25, 1861, the first Davenport-trained military body had boarded the river transport "Jennie Whipple" and headed down river. That some of their sons had gone forth to war "without arms, and in many instances without comfortable clothing. . . Some were almost barefooted, some had only pants and coat" shamed many Scott county residents and caused the local *Daily Democrat* to emit a protesting blast.<sup>16</sup> The deficiencies, while exaggerated, had existed. Fortunately the huge logistical build-up at St. Louis remedied most of these soldiers' needs before they went into battle.

<sup>13</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 158.

<sup>14</sup> Capt. C. Barney, *Recollections of Field Service with the 20th Iowa Infantry Volunteers, —or What I saw in the Army* (Davenport: *Gazette*, 1865), p. 22.

<sup>15</sup> *Davenport Gazette*, August 12, 1864. (Hereafter cited as *Gazette*.)

<sup>16</sup> *Democrat*, September 25, 1861.

Strenuous efforts had enabled the outpouring of the Hawkeye manhood reservoir to be properly channeled. By March 21, 1862, Iowa had prepared for combat sixteen infantry regiments, four cavalry regiments, and four batteries of artillery.<sup>17</sup> That spring found Davenport's military training facilities adequate to meet all future troop mobilization contingencies. Thereafter, military demands for the training of volunteers oscillated most irregularly.<sup>18</sup>

Camp McClellan, largest of Davenport's five encampments, had its first birthday in August of 1862. The year-old Camp could take pride in its service as a rendezvous-training center for the 8th, 11th, 13th, 14th, and 16th Regiments of Infantry.<sup>19</sup> By a series of tragic events which occurred during this anniversary month in the northern sister-state of Minnesota, fate prepared a strange new role for Camp McClellan.

As one peruses the *Official Records*, he becomes cognizant of the serious internal as well as external difficulties which confronted Iowa throughout the Civil war. Domestically, the draft friction of 1863 and the menace of the pro-Southern Knights of the Golden Circle seemed threatening. From without, particularly in 1861, there was the likelihood of Missouri raiders; possible Indian violence from across the Minnesota border never vanished. Recall, that the Northern armies fought not only against the eleven seceding states but often in Indian country as well. In the New Mexico, Nebraska, Dakota and Colorado territories Indians engaged thousands of Northern soldiers in scattered hostilities from 1861 to 1865.

Of all of Iowa's immediate potential dangers, Governor Kirkwood appears to have been concerned most over possible Sioux depredations from the northwest.<sup>20</sup> The

<sup>17</sup> O.R., Series III, Vol. I, pp. 940-941.

<sup>18</sup> Briggs, *Iowa and War*, *op. cit.*, p. 353 ff.

<sup>19</sup> Harry E. Downer, *History of Davenport and Scott County, Iowa*, I (2 vols.; Chicago; S. J. Clarke, 1910), p. 670.

<sup>20</sup> O.R., Series III, Vol. I, pp. 57, 128, 158, 163, 185-186.



Governor's forebodings were not without considerable justification. Fortunately for Iowa the appalling Sioux up-rising of August 1862 was contained in Minnesota.

Ignited by a handful of "blanket Indian" malcontents, what should have remained a local flare-up was extinguished only after slaughter had swept far up the Red river valley and south almost to the Iowa border.<sup>21</sup> Only after the most severe fighting were troops from Fort Snelling able to defeat Little Crow and his desperate followers; but not until some 400 settlers had been killed.

By early September over 2000 Indians, the majority women and children, had been rounded up in General Sibley's campaign to restrain any such future massacres.<sup>22</sup> During early 1863 the United States Congress abrogated all treaties with these Sioux, thereupon leaving them homeless. This only legitimized what was already a fact, for shortly after their capture by Sibley's forces, the Indians had been incarcerated within Fort Snelling and at Mankato, Minnesota. So intense, however, was the public wrath against the redmen that over three hundred of them were condemned to be hanged as participants in the August massacres.<sup>23</sup>

A portion of those unfortunate people were shipped west to Nebraska Territory. On March 23rd Davenport's *Daily Democrat* must have jolted not a few of its readers when it revealed: "There is a prospect that the reprieved Indians [only 38 were finally hanged] at Mankato, Minnesota, are to be transferred to this place . . . To turn them loose would ensure their speedy death at the hands of the outraged Minnesotans. . . There are about 200 of the red devils chained together in pairs."<sup>24</sup> A month later 278 of the Sioux braves, 16 squaws, and two papooses were removed from their

<sup>21</sup> Federal Writers' Program, *Minnesota: A State Guide*, American Guide Series (New York: The Viking Press, 1938), pp. 314-315.

<sup>22</sup> *Gazette*, October 15, 1862.

<sup>23</sup> William Watts Folwell, *A History of Minnesota*, II (4 vols.; St. Paul, Minnesota Historical Society, 1924), pp. 255-259.

<sup>24</sup> *Democrat*, March 23, 1863.

log stockade at Mankato and transferred to an empty corner of Camp McClellan at Davenport. The 200 x 200 foot pen was labeled Camp Kearney,<sup>25</sup> exactly why is not clear.

Fortunately the officer in charge, as well as the Davenport community, soon realized how abject and docile these "fiendish butchering heathens" actually were. Iowans came to be most favorably impressed by the thrice-daily Christian worship services carried on by the Sioux.<sup>26</sup> After a short time their manacles were removed, and as none attempted to escape, considerable liberty was permitted them.

Camp Kearney's inmates were not long in discovering that there was a local market for their bows and arrows. Soon these "Indian-made" items, in addition to their mussel-shell rings and the usual hand-wrought jewelry, were circulating in Scott county. Some of the Indians were even permitted to earn spending money by laboring on local farms. According to Professor Folwell, a large portion of them asked to be allowed to enlist in the volunteer army, but the Secretary of War decided that it would be inexpedient to grant the request.<sup>27</sup>

It is not surprising that by December of 1863 the novelty of the Sioux captives had worn off. Earlier, in April of that year, a reporter for the Davenport *Daily Democrat* had described them:

A fairer lot of Indians in physical development it would be difficult to find. They are large, straight and of resolute mien. No captivity can obliterate the native majesty or dim the fiery restless eye of these strong patriotic savages.<sup>28</sup>

But by December the same newspaper declared:

Ugh! When at Camp McClellan the other day we visited the Indian pen, where they have some 365 men, women and children, real "native Americans." We have read something of Indian romance, but in looking at those specimens we could not see it. . . We could see no evidence of nobleness or

<sup>25</sup> *Democrat*, April 27, 1863.

<sup>26</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>27</sup> Folwell, *op. cit.*, p. 262.

<sup>28</sup> *Democrat*, April 27, 1863.



dignity of character but rather evidence of treachery and cruelty. . . Every one of them proved guilty of the murder of one of the white men should have been hung with the 28 already executed.<sup>29</sup>

Eighteen hundred and sixty-three had been the year of decision for Northern and Southern armies. "Marsh" Lee and his indomitable army were unwilling, however, to accept the omens of Vicksburg and Gettysburg. The Davenport community which had already provided five training-rendezvous camps, and only recently an Indian prison, was therefore called upon to assist in a new wartime endeavor—a prison center for captured Confederates.

As early as February of 1862, Adjutant General Baker of Iowa had written to Senator James W. Grimes about Davenport as a likely location for a prisoner of war camp. "Three thousand prisoners," he wrote, "can be kept here at 16 cents each per day, Government furnishing building, fuel and guards."<sup>30</sup> No immediate action was taken on this matter. Exactly what site Adjutant General Price had in mind is not now clear. The Federally-owned island of Rock Island must have been discussed earlier as a possible prison locality. Its ready accessibility by Mississippi river steamboats, and the rail link of the Chicago and Rock Island Railroad, not to mention its relative isolation by water, recommended it.

At the outbreak of the Civil war neither side was equipped to handle large numbers of prisoners. Before the conflict ended the Confederacy had incarcerated some 194,743 captured soldiers, while the Union imprisoned approximately 214,825.<sup>31</sup> Due to its belated victories, it was not until 1862-63 that the North began to be confronted with seriously pressing demands for prisoner-of-war camps. To help meet these needs

<sup>29</sup> *Democrat*, December 3, 1863.

<sup>30</sup> *O.R.*, Series II, Vol. III, p. 269.

<sup>31</sup> James Ford Rhodes, *History of the United States*, V (6 vols.; New York: The Macmillan Co., 1906), p. 507. This volume, pp. 483-515, is recommended reading for a brief summary of the whole Civil war prisoner-of-war story.

the government-owned Rock Island was designated as a military prison in July, 1863.

Commissary General of Prisoners, William H. Hoffman, always a dollar-conscious administrator, ordered that the barracks "be put up in the roughest and cheapest manner—mere shanties, with no fine work about them. . ."<sup>32</sup> Captain Charles R. Reynolds, Ass't. Quartermaster, was assigned the task of constructing the compound. The plans which he secured from the Quartermaster General's Office were, if necessary, to be modified to meet "the character of the ground."<sup>33</sup>

Tree-covered and largely free of swamp land, the three-mile-long island soon rang with the sounds of hammers, shovels and saws. By late November of 1863 the Army felt that the Rock Island prison was prepared to begin receiving its motley charges. The Camp, laid out in a square, consisted of 84 wooden barracks in six rows of fourteen each; auxiliary structures were provided outside the compound proper for guard troops, supplies, etc. The streets were a hundred feet wide, and the distance between each of the barracks was forty feet. Each building was one story, raised three feet from the ground, and stood twelve feet high. One hundred and twenty men slept in a barracks 100 x 22 feet; 18 feet was taken up at one end for a cook house. Surrounding the 84 dwellings was the prescribed "twelve foot fence with a sentinel's walk on the outside four feet below the top." Drainage was good, the water supply was adequate, and portable cesspools assured maximum toilet sanitation.<sup>34</sup>

Brig. General William W. Orme noted that "natural obstacles to an escape are very trivial around this island,"<sup>35</sup> and urged that at least fourteen full companies of the Invalid Corps be designated to secure the prison.

<sup>32</sup> *O.R.*, Series II, Vol. VI, pp. 115, 196.

<sup>33</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 115.

<sup>34</sup> For a description of the Camp see: *Ibid.*, pp. 115, 663, 939. *O.R.* Series II, Vol. VII, pp. 506-507.

<sup>35</sup> *O.R.*, Series II, Vol. VI, p. 663.







*Courtesy of Rock Island Arsenal*

Roll Call of the Guard at Rock Island Prison, along the dead line ditch. The foremost figure is that of Father Dunham, the prison Chaplain. The men grouped around the barracks are the prisoners.



The first soldiers to be assigned as guards reported on November 2, 1863.<sup>36</sup> On December 3, 1863, Rock Island prison received its initial body of ex-Confederate fighting men; they had been captured at the battles of Lookout Mountain and Missionary Ridge.<sup>37</sup> By February, 1864, there were 7,149 of them, guarded by 1,361 Yankees of the Invalid Corps.<sup>38</sup>

In keeping with international law and the regulations of the United States Army, the prisoners were to be issued the same food in quality and quantity as was given to Union soldiers. The regulation ration which the prisoners were to receive consisted of three-fourths of a pound of bacon or one and one-quarter pounds of beef, one and one-third pounds white or one and one-quarter pounds of corn bread, one-tenth pound of green coffee, one and one-half ounces of rice or hominy, one-sixth pound of sugar, a gill of vinegar, one Star candle, a tablespoon of salt, and beans, potatoes, and molasses in reduced amounts.<sup>39</sup>

The most immediate need of the men imprisoned for the duration was proper clothing. On their arrival their uniforms were commonly in tatters, and their blankets, often as not, were but bundles of rags. The few photographs which exist of the Rock Island inmates make it appear that they, like so many other captured Confederates, were provided with rejected grey Northern state uniforms. Early in the conflict these state uniforms, made of good material had been replaced by the Union blue. Ironically, Johnny Reb was thereby provided with a fine new Confederate uniform as he entered a stockade hundreds of miles from Dixieland.<sup>40</sup>

<sup>36</sup> Newton Bateman and Paul Selby (eds.), *Historical Encyclopedia of Illinois and History of Rock Island County*, II (2 vols.; Chicago: Munsell Pub. Co., 1914) p. 839.

<sup>37</sup> O.R., Series II, Vol. VIII, p. 202.

<sup>38</sup> O.R., Series II, Vol. VI, p. 939.

<sup>39</sup> After April 20, 1864, this was reduced by about 20% in reprisal for the alleged inhuman treatment of Union prisoners. Rhodes, *op. cit.*, p. 505.

<sup>40</sup> Asa Brainerd Isham, et al., *Prisoners of War and Military Prisoners* (Cincinnati: Lyman and Cushing, 1890), p. 134.

The Rock Island prison had been in operation for hardly more than a month when the two river towns which flanked it began to stir uneasily. Dame rumor had begun to cause raised eyebrows in Davenport, and its Illinois counterpart, Rock Island, over the "shockingly high number of deaths out on the Island." Alarmed at these tales, the slow wheels of bureaucratic investigation began to turn. On January 18, 1864, a medical inspector reported that suffering among the prisoners was "for the most part untrue or greatly exaggerated."<sup>41</sup> However, the grim fact remains that for the period from January through May of 1864, the Rock Island prison had the highest number of deaths of any Union prison then in operation.<sup>42</sup>

A perusal of the *Official Records* strongly indicates that neither criminal negligence nor filthy living conditions brought on the tragedy. The number of excessive deaths seems to have resulted from two major factors: the introduction of virulent smallpox by infected prisoners during the Camp's first month of existence; and a failure of the Camp administration to act quickly to meet this threat. The fact should not be overlooked that the 1,968 Southern fighting men who eventually died at Rock Island prison never equalled the death totals which were unhappily reached at such larger Union prisons as Camp Chase, Ohio, or Point Lookout, Maryland.<sup>43</sup> Certainly the living accommodations at Rock Island prison were as different from the squalid Andersonville prison as day from night.

There is some evidence of negligence in medical preparation at the Rock Island Prison. However, it only tends to indicate that no one in authority had visualized the likelihood of a smallpox epidemic in the prison. As late as a few weeks before the Island accepted its first charges, no medical officer had been appointed.<sup>44</sup>

<sup>41</sup> O.R., Series II, Vol. VI, p. 848.

<sup>42</sup> O.R., Series II, Vol. VIII, pp. 993-1003.

<sup>43</sup> For comparisons with other Union prison camps see: O.R., Series II, Vol. VIII, p. 986 ff.

<sup>44</sup> O.R., Series II, Vol. VI, p. 635.

Further, by mid-January of 1864, medical supplies were still inadequate.<sup>45</sup> During these first months hundreds of prisoners-of-war were being interned on the Island, camp facilities were being improved, but no real sense of urgency in the face of the smallpox outbreak is evident.

The *Official Records* do not tell us all that we would like to know. It seems inescapably clear, however, that lethargy evaporated with the arrival during the first weeks of February of Dr. A. M. Clark, acting Medical Inspector of Prisoners of War. Clark was unafraid to label incompetency and to take upon his own shoulders the responsibility for building a genuine isolation hospital. Clark praised the prison camp's Acting Surgeon who, although "inexperienced," was trying to do well with assistants who, "with one or two exceptions, are utterly inefficient." The Medical Inspector was glad to find smallpox vaccination finally being employed; but pointed an accusing finger at the Louisville, Kentucky officers who had originally forwarded the diseased captives—"some even who had broken out."<sup>46</sup>

The following month the outspoken Dr. Clark was satisfied to report that all those who suffered from smallpox were now properly isolated. As before he did not hesitate to label inefficiency—this time an Iowa Volunteer body—for their unmilitary performance. He also observed that the proximity of the cemetery was unhealthy and he directed that it be moved.<sup>47</sup> Inspector Clark apparently was able to get along well enough with the prison commander, Col. A. J. Johnson. Once the proportions of the smallpox curse began to be felt, the Camp Commander was probably grateful for the outspoken physician.

In early March, Commander Johnson was notified to halt work on the prison hospital.<sup>48</sup> Colonel Hoffman,

<sup>45</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 848.

<sup>46</sup> *Ibid.*, pp. 938-940. Also *O.R.*, Series II, Vol. VII, p. 13.

<sup>47</sup> *O.R.*, Series II, Vol. VI, p. 1002.

<sup>48</sup> *Ibid.*, pp. 1021, 1022, 1047.



Commissary General of Prisoners, after consulting with the Secretary of War, had issued the orders, erroneously believing that the prisoners' sickness was "of a temporary character."<sup>49</sup> A March report from William Watson, Volunteer Surgeon to Charles S. Tripler, Army Medical Director, brushed away any foggy notions about health conditions at the four month old prison.

I found the morning report of sick in quarters 350, in hospital 715, of whom 420 were in the variola hospital. . . I found a great want of cleanliness among the patients and attendants which is disappearing under stringent regulations. . . the impression seemed to prevail that it was injurious to wash, which resulted in an accumulation of filth. . .

Watson also enclosed a written copy of a report that he had made to the prison's commander, Colonel A. J. Johnson:

If more evidence of the urgent necessity of the new buildings was requisite it could be found in the startling ratio of the late weekly and monthly reports; 104.66 was the ratio of deaths per 1000 for the week ending March 5, and 330 deaths among 1,664 cases treated for the month ending February 9. . .<sup>50</sup>

A few days later orders were issued to Colonel Johnson from his economy-minded superior, Colonel Hoffman, to go ahead and finish the needed hospital facilities.<sup>51</sup>

Actually the backbone of the smallpox threat had been broken in February of 1864. In that month death had reaped a pathetic harvest of 346 men among the 7600 then incarcerated.<sup>52</sup> Unquestionably the bitterly cold January of 1864 had helped to weaken men already suffering from smallpox and such secondary ills as diarrhea, dysentery and pneumonia. Recall also, that the captured Confederates continued to arrive at Rock Island from St. Louis and Louisville dirty and weak—prime targets for camp contagions. Nevertheless, by October

<sup>49</sup> *O.R.*, Series II, Vol. VII, p. 13.

<sup>50</sup> *Ibid.*, pp. 12, 13, 15.

<sup>51</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 16.

<sup>52</sup> For the monthly abstracts of the Rock Island prison see: *O.R.*, Series II, Vol. VIII, pp. 993-1003. Unfortunately there is a single omission in the abstracts, December, 1864.

of 1864, the Prison Abstract reported only 52 deaths out of a current prison body of 8181 men. As may be deduced, a stringent policing of body, barracks, and grounds, plus an increasingly effective medical program, had won the prison health battle.

Aside from their daily roll calls and the cleaning of their quarters, the duties of the prison population were few. Visitors were rarely allowed. Outside, censored mail, however, was permitted the men.<sup>53</sup> Camp Commander Johnson was alert to the slow agony of boredom which gnawed on each of his charges. Although not required to labor about the Camp, the men were provided with an opportunity to earn five to ten cents per day, depending on their skill.<sup>54</sup> This income they quickly exhausted with the purchase of such items as pies, candies, bologna, stamps, and surprisingly enough, pen knives, from the Camp sutler.<sup>55</sup> With the knives the more enterprising Southerners carved rings, breast pins, and miscellaneous trinkets; the sale of these handicrafts enlarged their diminutive purchasing power. One cannot help but speculate if their knick knacks were ever undersold by the redskin merchandise from across the river at Camp Kearney.

One of the projects chosen by Colonel Johnson to improve the prison compound and keep many inmates occupied was a major expansion of the Camp's sewer system.<sup>56</sup> The resultant blasting and digging evidently inspired the more ambitious of the prisoners to go into business for themselves. On the night of June 14, 1864, ten of them made their escape by tunnelling from a barracks directly under the parapet. Just as the last two were emerging they were hailed by the sentry who immediately gave the alarm. Three were soon taken on the Island, and four were captured near Rock River, four miles distant, one was drowned attempt-

<sup>53</sup> *O.R.*, Series II, Vol. IV, p. 153.

<sup>54</sup> *O.R.*, Series II, Vol. VII, p. 180.

<sup>55</sup> *O.R.*, Series II, Vol. VI, pp. 1014-1015.

<sup>56</sup> *O.R.*, Series II, Vol. VII, p. 180.

ing to cross the slough, and two apparently gained their freedom.<sup>57</sup>

Behind the twelve-foot fence surrounding the Rock Island prison a ditch had been dug; along its ridge and set a few yards back from it, stood a row of stakes. This line of stakes was called the "dead line," and meant exactly that for any prisoner who risked crossing it.<sup>58</sup> The 23rd of September must have been a bad day for the soldiers from the Land of Cotton, for on that day a new body of soldier guards arrived—the 108th Regiment of Colored Infantry.<sup>59</sup>

One month later as Private Cowhens of that unit walked his guard he noticed a shadowy figure "slipping across the ditch; then when I got close enough. . . crept right up over him. . . and fired at him while he was scratching under the fence."<sup>60</sup> Yet despite the easy prospect of meeting a deadly lead ball, 41 Johnnies succeeded in their gamble for freedom and home. Possibly this tenacity may have had something to do with the strange request of the usually parsimonious Colonel Hoffman. On August 4, 1864, he ordered a "barge to be purchased and fitted up for the accommodation of a guard of thirty-five men, armed with a 6-pound field piece and a 24-pound howitzer, to be anchored in the Mississippi river off Rock Island, as additional security. . ."<sup>61</sup>

The Commissary General of Prisoners' caution was never put to the test. Once the sands began to run out for the Confederacy in 1864, they did so with increasing momentum. During the latter part of that year public pressure in both the North and South secured a program of sick and invalid prisoner exchange.<sup>62</sup>

<sup>57</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 415.

<sup>58</sup> *Ibid.*, pp. 1037-1040.

<sup>59</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 880.

<sup>60</sup> *Ibid.*, pp. 1037-1040.

<sup>61</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 537.

<sup>62</sup> William Best Hesseltine, *Civil War Prisons: A Study in War Psychology* (Columbus: Ohio State Univ. Press, 1930), pp. 226-228. This remains the best work of its type.



A complication arose over what to do with the Southern prisoners who did not wish to be sent South. Many prisoners, particularly those from the border states, preferred to take the oath of allegiance in accordance with the terms of Lincoln's amnesty proclamation.

On January 16, 1865, Colonel Johnson reported that two hundred and eighty-one prisoners left for exchange via Cairo, Illinois. Although only 23 "accepted the privilege of taking the oath," he could rejoice that "nearly all alleging that as soon as they were exchanged they would desert and go home."<sup>63</sup> The following month, however, some 1,330 of the Camp's inmates refused to be sent in exchange.<sup>64</sup> In the *Official Records* there is a letter to Jefferson Davis from five of the Camp's zealous Southerners who opposed this and who did their best to re-enlist the back-sliders.<sup>65</sup> One can imagine the deep rancour which split these two divergent bodies as the war shuddered to a stop.

In the weeks following Appomattox, the activity about the Rock Island prison rapidly receded. In March there had been 5,000 men languishing in the stockade; a month after the war had ended approximately 2,664 remained. During July the last two prisoners were released.<sup>66</sup> On the 6th of that month a military inspector reported that the grounds, barracks, hospitals, and records all showed great care and attention on the part of the commanding officer, Colonel Johnson.<sup>67</sup>

Throughout its operation the Rock Island prison had confined 12,215 prisoners. Among them occurred 1,968 deaths, some 500 perishing from the effects of small-pox.<sup>68</sup> From its days of actual existence to this, the Rock Island prison has been maligned for harboring

<sup>63</sup> *O.R.*, Series II, Vol. VIII, p. 82.

<sup>64</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 272.

<sup>65</sup> *Ibid.*, pp. 201-202.

<sup>66</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 1003.

<sup>67</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 704.

<sup>68</sup> Bateman and Selby, *op. cit.*, p. 839. Letter from T. R. Walker, Curator, Rock Island Arsenal Museum to author, December 11, 1957.

"poor starving creatures."<sup>69</sup> The facts do not confirm this indictment. The number of deaths was grievous, and some administrative incompetency did occur. That the men were "ravenous" and deliberately allowed to die is an old wives' tale. Once the unfortunate health circumstances were recognized for the peril which they genuinely held, great exertions were made to overcome them. Belated though these efforts may have been, the *Official Records* attest to their efficacy once they were applied.

Just as Lee's surrender concluded the prison role of the Government's Island, so did it signal the eclipse of the Davenport military posts. Indeed, the Camp McClellan hospital had proved more useful during the closing month of the War than had its empty training facilities.<sup>70</sup> The summer of 1865 saw these Camps assisting with the general army demobilization, most particularly the paying and discharging of the Hawkeye veterans of Scott county, Iowa. From this county, of which Davenport was the important population center, 4,117 men had gone forth to serve their nation. Of this number 222 had died in battle and in Southern prisons.<sup>71</sup> County historian, Harry E. Downer, later asserted that Scott county men were in every regiment which Iowa sent to the front.<sup>72</sup>

Camp Kinsman, second in size to Camp McClellan, was the only one of the five Davenport training encampments to be retained for peacetime employment. It was partially rebuilt and emerged as an Orphans Home; the others were razed and their lumber sold.<sup>73</sup> What about the redmen? Unwanted and utterly incongruous in their Davenport setting, their lot would surely have been a life absent of hope except for their

<sup>69</sup> For example see the indictment of the Rock Island *Argus* and the defense of Col. A. J. Johnson. *O.R.*, Series II, Vol. VII, p. 1284; and Vol. VIII, pp. 16-18, 38-39.

<sup>70</sup> *Gazette*, March 30, 1865.

<sup>71</sup> Federal Writers', *Scott County*, *op. cit.*, p. 40.

<sup>72</sup> Downer, *op. cit.*, p. 670.

<sup>73</sup> *Democrat and Gazette*, August-October, 1865.

faithful friend and spiritual guide, Dr. Williamson of the Methodist Church. In 1864, at his urging, some forty were pardoned, and in 1866, the remaining two hundred and forty-seven were pardoned by President Johnson.<sup>74</sup> Almost a year after the termination of the national conflict, the "red devils" were loaded on a steamboat and removed to Fort Randall, Dakota Territory, and final reunion with their fellows.<sup>75</sup>

The role of the Davenport community in the Civil war was important. It fused strong strands of war-time strength for the Northern war effort. Clearly, the totality of America's great North-South upheaval could not have existed but for the vast, interdependent war efforts undertaken by such areas as this Mississippi river community.

<sup>74</sup> Folwell, *op. cit.*, p. 262.

<sup>75</sup> William J. Petersen, "Indians and Steamboats," *Iowa Journal of History and Politics*, XXX (April, 1932), p. 181.

### Reduction of postage

One of the questions now agitated and which will be brought before Congress at its present session, is the enormous tax now paid in postage upon letters. Mr. Wickliffe, Postmaster General, recommends a reduction of postage to ten and five cents, provided the Department be left to lean upon its own resources.

There is no question that calls louder upon Congress for action than that of reduction of postage. It is an unjust and unnecessary taxation. It has been proved by the soundest logic that the increase of correspondence, resulting from a reduction of postage, will counter-balance the decrease of revenue, so that this Department will not have to depend upon the Government for support.

—BLOOMINGTON HERALD, January 3, 1845.



# The Legislative Calendar

BY CHARLES ALDRICH\*

Almost every innovation upon past manners and customs, or habits, is brought about through a contest, often a bitter struggle, no matter how obvious its justice may, or ought, to be to the average common sense. I have had several experiences of this kind, one of which I will here relate. I was a member of the Iowa House of Representatives in the session of 1882, of course not in very good standing with the majority because I had introduced a bill for an act to prevent public officers from receiving or accepting bribes in the shape of free transportation on the railroads. It one day occurred to me that we were wasting a great deal of our time, however valuable it might be, by reason of not having a daily calendar. I therefore introduced the following resolution:

RESOLVED, That the Chief Clerk be and is hereby directed to cause to be printed daily, on and after the 16th instant, a calendar of all bills on second and third reading, giving their order on the files of the House; said list to include the number of each bill, the title and the member introducing same. One copy of said calendar to be laid on the desk of each member of the House.

This was no sooner read by the Clerk than it was fiercely pounced upon by several gentlemen as a piece of extravagance, a "job" in the interest of the state printer, a needless waste of money, and much more to the same effect. I very soon saw, unless I could hedge in some direction, that my little resolution would be lost. I therefore appealed to the House to let it go to the committee on Rules, and finally succeeded in getting it so referred. I then began to talk it over with the members privately, explaining that instead of an extravagance it would really prove a great economy, a saving of time, a convenience to every member. These

\* Served as first Curator of Iowa State Department of History and Archives from 1890 to 1908.

arguments were not likely to avail, and to secure its passage I at last agreed that if the House would print a calendar one week, I would agree to pay the cost unless the practice was continued. Taking a roll-call I checked the names of the members who were willing to try the experiment on the terms I proposed until I had secured a clear majority. I then got the resolution reported back without recommendation, but when it came up for final action, it was easily passed.

A day or two later the first legislative calendar ever seen in Iowa was laid upon our desks. It pleased every member of the House at once. I was asked a dozen times, "Aldrich, why didn't we have this before?" The question of rescinding my resolution was never raised.

Two or three days later the Senate took the same step, and the legislative calendar has ever since remained as much a feature of the daily sessions as the morning invocation of the Divine Blessing. Few would suppose for an instant that its inception could have been attended with any opposition whatever.

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### Halloween

The boys had what they called fun last Saturday evening, visiting their neighbors' premises and making things as inconvenient for them as possible. They made several of the good people think, even if they did not say, bad words, after hunting an hour or two for things they could not find. Of course this was Halloween, which comes but once a year and only a short time at that.—*The Sac Sun*, November 4, 1897.

The Rock Rapids juveniles were very decent in their mischief on Halloween. They overturned outbuildings, hauled off machinery and vehicles, but did no damage. In a few instances the girls indulged in some harmless sport early in the evening.—*The Rock Rapids Review*, Thursday, November 3, 1898.

# Some Early Iowa Agricultural Organizations

BY MYRTLE BEINHAUER\*

Almost as soon as Iowa Territory was created, the attention of the landowner was turned to the problems of improving his status. In fact, the first General Assembly in 1838 passed a law providing for the organization of county agricultural societies. Since this opportunity was not immediately taken advantage of, subsequent legislative encouragement for the forming of similar organizations was soon enacted. In 1842 the formation of a Territorial Agricultural Society was authorized and a year later a statute permitting the organization of local societies was again passed. From that time on, such societies were organized in rapid succession.

Before the turn of the century there were few farm organizations other than the county and state agricultural societies, but since that time their number has been legion. A brief study shows that all farm organizations in Iowa may be divided into two general groups: those organized for the purpose of increasing production and promoting internal improvement and those organized to improve the economic welfare of the farmer by assisting him in marketing his produce.

Some of the early organizations are still active and are still performing valuable services for the farmers of Iowa. Others appeared, operated for a while, and succumbed to newer organizations or, having served their purpose ceased functioning. The purpose of this study is to trace the history of four organizations which are no longer active but which made valuable contribution to the agricultural development in Iowa.

## IOWA IMPROVED STOCK BREEDERS' ASSOCIATION

Of these four organizations, the Iowa Improved Stock Breeders' Association was the oldest, having been founded by a small group of farmers in Cedar Rapids in June 1875. According to Judge Z. C. Luse, president of the

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society, in an address to the annual convention in 1881, these stockmen sought to protect themselves against swindlers, to disseminate knowledge on stock raising, and to ascertain the best methods of producing milk and of feeding livestock.<sup>1</sup>

In this same address, Judge Luse explained the two types of swindling to which the stock breeders of that day were subjected. The first of these was the distribution of barren animals, shipped from other states, chiefly Kentucky, as purebreds. The other was the peddling of cull calves. These animals were shipped predominantly from Wisconsin and Illinois and sold as purebreds to the unsuspecting farmers at large, well-advertised sales.<sup>2</sup>

In 1875 the organization was called the Iowa Stock Breeders' Association, but in 1880 it became the Iowa Improved Stock Breeders' Association. This change permitted the society to expand its membership, because the new name implied that anyone interested in "improving" livestock was eligible to membership, while the first name gave the impression that only breeders of livestock could participate in the Association's activities.<sup>3</sup>

The Iowa Improved Stock Breeders' Association became popular in the state. By 1880 it boasted fifty members, three of whom were honorary.<sup>4</sup> Its meetings were open to all and, as a result, more than two hundred persons attended the sixth annual convention in 1880.<sup>5</sup>

The immediate concern of the society, protection against unscrupulous stock dealers, was achieved in six years. The organization's annual report of 1881 tells us that at that time there was not a "calf-peddler"

<sup>1</sup> Iowa State Agricultural Society, *Annual Report, 1881* (Des Moines: State Printer, 1882), pp. 14-15.

<sup>2</sup>*Ibid.*, 1881, p. 15.

<sup>3</sup> *Ibid.*, 1880, p. 105.

<sup>4</sup> The membership fee of the organization was two dollars with one dollar annual dues.

<sup>5</sup> Iowa State Agricultural Society, *Annual Report, 1880* (Des Moines: State Printer, 1881), p. 8.

in the state.<sup>6</sup> However, the Association continued its work of disseminating knowledge on the care of livestock. In doing this, the members discussed such subjects as "Grasses for Iowa," "New Conditions in Hog Raising," "Sheep," "Pastures," and "Milch Cows" at their regular meetings. But they did not confine themselves to the study of livestock and before long they showed concern for improving the social and educational aspects of farm life.<sup>7</sup>

During the early years of its existence, the Iowa Improved Stock Breeders' Association played an important role in the state and its work was deemed valuable enough for the Iowa state legislature to pass "An Act to Provide for the Publication of the Annual Proceedings of the Iowa Improved Stock Breeders' Association." This act authorized the publication of not more than five thousand copies of the report under the supervision of the Association as the reports of the State Horticultural and State Agricultural Societies were then published.<sup>8</sup>

After a time interest in the organization lagged. Although the activities of the society helped the farmer increase his production, he apparently did not consider these advantages great enough to warrant his continued support of the Association. The leaders were not especially responsible for this sentiment. The income of the organization was derived solely from membership fees. Without state aid or other sources of financial support extensive experiments could not be conducted nor could the most competent authorities on the various problems of stock raisers be obtained. Consequently, many needs of the farmer were not met. As a result, the membership of the society and attendance at its annual conventions gradually decreased. After thirty-one years of service the Association died a natural death. It was included among the "Farm Organizations"

<sup>6</sup> *Ibid.*, 1881, p. 2.

<sup>7</sup> *Ibid.*, 1901, p. 158.

<sup>8</sup> *Laws of Iowa*, 1884, Chapter 134.

in 1906, but since that time has not been mentioned in the *Iowa Year Book of Agriculture*.

#### IOWA SWINE BREEDERS' ASSOCIATION

While the immediate reason for the creation of the Iowa Swine Breeders' Association may seem of minor importance, it was one of the state's early agricultural societies and for over thirty years it helped promote the welfare of the Iowa farmer. The inception of the organization resulted from the dissatisfaction of the swine breeders with accommodations accorded them at the State Fair.<sup>9</sup> The swine breeders desired facilities as good as those of other stock raisers, so they met in Judge Nourse's tent September 4, 1882, to discuss the best methods of obtaining them. This meeting resulted in the formation of the Iowa Swine Breeders' Association with B. R. Vale as president.<sup>10</sup>

After organizing, the members had difficulty in obtaining a hearing before the Board of Directors of the Iowa State Fair. Finally they were permitted to plead their cause and from that time on the swine breeders felt their needs at the Fair were more adequately met.<sup>11</sup> By 1907 the legislature appropriated \$75,000 for the erection of better swine quarters at the fairgrounds.<sup>12</sup> This measure, introduced by John McAllister of Linn county,<sup>13</sup> was the first asking for state financial support for this group.

Besides improving accommodations at the State Fair, the members discussed problems confronting them in their daily life. At their annual meetings, the best methods of feeding, breeding, and caring for their swine were considered and thus valuable information was given to the interested farmers.

<sup>9</sup> Iowa State Department of Agriculture, *Iowa Year Book of Agriculture*, 1901 (Des Moines: State Printer, 1902), p. 171.

<sup>10</sup> The membership fee of this society was one dollar with annual dues of twenty-five cents.

<sup>11</sup> Iowa State Department of Agriculture, *Iowa Year Book of Agriculture*, 1901 (Des Moines: State Printer, 1902), p. 171.

<sup>12</sup> *Laws of Iowa*, 1907, Chapter 204.

<sup>13</sup> Iowa State Department of Agriculture, *Iowa Year Book of Agriculture*, 1907 (Des Moines: State Printer, 1908), p. 228.



For a time the organization grew and by 1904 over one hundred attended the annual meeting of the Association, but soon thereafter its decline began. Its annual report of 1909, written for the *Agricultural Year Book*, stated that the number present was unusually small.<sup>14</sup> However, the organization continued until 1916, which is the last time it received mention among the "Farm Organizations" in the *Iowa Year Book of Agriculture*. Nevertheless, it had accomplished its original purpose by obtaining a fine pavilion and show ring for the swine breeders and exhibitors at the Iowa State Fair. In addition it served to disseminate much information on the improvement of swine production and thus helped Iowa become one of the leading hog-raising states of the nation.

#### IOWA SEED CORN BREEDERS' ASSOCIATION

The shortest lived of this group of organizations was the Iowa Seed Corn Breeders' Association. Very early in 1901 N. J. Harris, A. L. Plummer, John E. Brown, Charles Page, D. B. Patterson, and Fred Hethershaw issued a call for a meeting of the corn growers of the state.<sup>15</sup> In response to this call, a small group of men met at Des Moines in February of that year and organized this Association.<sup>16</sup>

In giving their reason for organizing, these men stated that, although no crop in Iowa could compare with that of corn, none was as badly neglected. They also said that corn was very susceptible to improvement and that they intended to improve it.<sup>17</sup> This intent is borne out by the Association's constitution, which stated its purpose as being:

. . . to organize the originators, introducers, and the growers of improved varieties of seed corn for their mutual improve-

<sup>14</sup> *Ibid.*, 1909, p. 281.

<sup>15</sup> *Ibid.*, 1901, p. 546.

<sup>16</sup> The charter members of the organization were: D. B. Nims, John E. Brown, Fred Hethershaw, D. B. Patterson, M. Mitchell, and N. J. Harris. The officers elected at this time were: John E. Brown, president, D. B. Nims, vice-president, and N. J. Harris, secretary-treasurer. Iowa State Department of Agriculture, *Iowa Year Book of Agriculture*, 1901, pp. 546-547.

<sup>17</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 547.

ment and protection. To encourage among seed corn growers an honorable competition to produce for sale seed corn having the highest degree attainable of germination and of production. . . To encourage and advance the present high standard of excellence of varieties now grown in the state. . . and to encourage the development of new varieties by holding corn shows, distributing literature and any other legitimate means of disseminating knowledge along the line of advanced corn culture. . . To establish a school for training in score card work, in judging corn and giving certificates of proficiency to persons found competent.<sup>18</sup>

With this avowed purpose these men worked to increase the membership of the Association and to improve the corn produced in the state. The membership included those persons "actually engaged in the growing of improved or purebred corn for seed purposes. . . and such other persons not to exceed in number one-third of the entire membership whose knowledge and interest in the objects of the Association may entitle them to membership."<sup>19</sup> To a degree these men were successful in inducing the growers of the state to join them in their efforts to improve corn production. The six charter members in 1901 grew to eighteen by 1905,<sup>20</sup> which is a commendable growth considering the limitations placed on membership.

In an attempt to improve the strain of corn produced in Iowa, the members held semi-annual meetings at which such problems as the selection of seed and the cultivation of corn were discussed. Thus, much was done to instruct the farmer in bettering his corn. Some members felt, however, that the greatest work of the Association was in devising a score card by which corn could be judged. The card originated by this society is reputed to be the first in the country. According to the members it became the model for the score cards of the entire

<sup>18</sup> Iowa Seed Corn Breeders' Association, *Constitution and By-Laws*, Article 2.

<sup>19</sup> *Ibid.*, Article 3.

<sup>20</sup> Interview, Fred Hethershaw, former Secretary, Iowa Seed Corn Breeders' Association, April, 1932.

United States.<sup>21</sup> The score card used by the Association at this time follows:

Characteristics	Points <sup>22</sup>
Length of ear	12
Circumference of ear	8
Shape of ear and trueness to type	10
Ripeness or maturity	10
Color of grain and cob	5
How filled out at both ends	10
Number of rows	5
Length of grain	5
Perfection and uniformity of grain	5
Per cent of grain to cob, 3 ears	15
Weight of shelled corn, 3 ears	15

This card was described in the following way:

The above score card is not intended to be used in judging for sweepstakes but exhibits of the same variety. It does not require perfection but incites the exhibitor to emulation. It encourages distinctiveness of type among varieties. Its use is intended to be an encouragement to the study of the valuable characteristics of corn and not merely a way of dividing premium money.<sup>23</sup>

The Iowa Seed Corn Breeders' Association continued its work until 1905. With the development of the Corn Growers' Association under the leadership of Professor Holden at Ames, the members of the former organization decided to disband and to co-operate with the newer society. They felt that by working with the State College more could be accomplished. Since state funds were appropriated to the College, extensive research and experiments could be undertaken.<sup>24</sup>

The importance of the Iowa Seed Corn Breeders' Association is in the production of a score card and in the fact that it was the first movement toward the improvement of corn. It is responsible for stimulating an especial interest in the improvement of corn in Iowa.

#### CORN BELT MEAT PRODUCERS' ASSOCIATION

The final and perhaps the best known of this group

<sup>21</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>22</sup> Iowa Seed Corn Breeders' Association, *Constitution and By-Laws*, Article 9.

<sup>23</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>24</sup> Interview, Fred Hethershaw, former Secretary, Iowa Seed Corn Breeders' Association, April, 1932.



of societies is the Corn Belt Meat Producers' Association, which was organized to combat the railroad practices in issuing passes. In 1905, the railroads threatened to abrogate the return pass issued to stock shippers who accompanied their stock to market, and, since this pass was deemed essential by the shippers, they decided to unite to force the continuance of the practice then in vogue. From this situation came the Corn Belt Meat Producers' Association,<sup>25</sup> organized that year with Asa Ames of Buckingham, president, and James Ryan of Fort Dodge, secretary.

According to the constitution adopted at that time, the membership of the state Association was composed of all shippers who were members of local or county associations.<sup>26</sup> Like other farm organizations, the state unit of the Corn Belt Meat Producers' Association united the local or county associations. These latter groups were organized on the same basis as the state society. They allowed any shipper to become a member of their organization and agreed to cooperate with the state Association.<sup>27</sup> These local groups were represented in the state organization by delegates who elected the officers and directors of the state society. The directors undertook the general management of the Association, and transacted all its business.<sup>28</sup> In addition, they were to represent their district in the annual meeting.

Turning from the physical make-up of the Association, it is interesting to note some of its more important leaders. As stated above, Mr. Ryan was the first secretary of the society. He was more or less the "fire-brand" type, whose unusual ideas kept him in the public eye. This was an advantage to the society for his publicity helped focus public attention on the organ-

<sup>25</sup> Interview, H. A. Wallace, Editor, *Iowa Homestead* and *Wallace's Farmer*, August, 1931.

<sup>26</sup> Corn Belt Meat Producers' Association, *Annual Report*, 1906 (Des Moines: Corn Belt Meat Producers' Association, 1907), p. 40.

<sup>27</sup> Corn Belt Meat Producers' Association, *Second Annual Report*, 1907 (Des Moines: Corn Belt Meat Producers' Association, 1908), p. 42.

<sup>28</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 41.

ization. Thus, the Association became well-known and interest in it was stimulated so, in succeeding years, the officials could devote more time to their business and less to advertising the society. In 1906 he was succeeded in office by H. C. Wallace, a very unassuming man. He worked quietly but accomplished much. Mr. Wallace served in this capacity until his death in 1924, when he was succeeded by his son, H. A. Wallace.<sup>29</sup>

A year after Mr. H. C. Wallace's election as secretary of the Corn Belt Meat Producers' Association, Clifford Thorne became its attorney.<sup>30</sup> He was induced by H. C. Wallace to represent the Corn Belt Meat Producers' Association in its dispute with the railroads concerning rates. At first Mr. Thorne was slow to assimilate the statistical trend that his new work was to take since his previous training had all been in the direction of the theory of law, but, with growing familiarity, he became very efficient. It was through his efforts that the Association was able to accomplish much of its work in regard to rates.<sup>31</sup> As a result of his activities with the Association, he became the most noted railroad attorney of his time.

In 1908 Mr. A. Sykes of Des Moines became president of the organization and continued in that office until 1926. He was very efficient and his efficiency, combined with unusual ability and a pleasing personality, proved very valuable to the society.

These three men, Mr. Sykes, Mr. Wallace, and Mr.

<sup>29</sup> Interview, H. A. Wallace, Editor, *Iowa Homestead* and *Wallace's Farmer*, August, 1931.

<sup>30</sup> Mr. H. A. Wallace described Thorne as follows: Mr. Thorne was a very brilliant man with a great deal of dynamic power although he was very irritable. He was the son of a Methodist minister and, as a youth, he moved frequently as is customary with the families of preachers. In moving, Clifford often skipped a grade in school with the result that he had a Doctor's Degree from Yale at the age of 22. In 1923 Thorne ran against Brookhart in the primaries for U. S. Senator, but was defeated. This was a great blow to him, but he found solace in a trip abroad. While on his world tour, he caught cold in London and died, leaving a widow and a small daughter. Interview, H. A. Wallace, August, 1931.

<sup>31</sup> Interview, H. A. Wallace, Editor, *Iowa Homestead* and *Wallace's Farmer*, August, 1931.

Thorne, were very influential in the organization.<sup>32</sup> It was felt by some of the members that this trio was responsible for most of the Association's achievement.<sup>33</sup>

The Corn Belt Meat Producers' Association directed its efforts chiefly toward obtaining favorable railroad rates for agriculture. The Association represented the farmers before the Interstate Commerce Commission to prevent a general advance in rates. It obtained a decision and order from the Iowa Railroad Commission preventing the railroads from increasing the minimum carload shipping weight on livestock within the state. It took the leading part in defending the farmers before the Interstate Commerce Commission. It was estimated by the Association that the proposed rate advance would have cost the Iowa feeders one-half million dollars.<sup>34</sup>

A summary of other outstanding achievements of this Association was given by Mr. Sykes in an address at its 1911 annual meeting.<sup>35</sup> At this time, he declared that the organization had secured the stockmen's return pass for the shipper and had obtained improved stock-train schedules. He felt that the poorest service had been rendered by the C. B. & Q., but that, due to pressure exerted by the Association, the service was rapidly improved. He further claimed that, as a result of the activities of the society, full value was then being paid for stock crippled in transit whereas formerly only 50 per cent of their value had been allowed. According to its president, the Association had succeeded in getting an 18 per cent reduction in rates on livestock within Iowa, which annually saved \$50,000 for the farmers, and had obtained a reduction of 25 to 50 per cent in the rate of feeding sheep. Mr. Sykes claimed also that the Association was responsible for the re-

<sup>32</sup> Mr. Sykes was given \$2,000 per year and Mr. Thorne was retained for \$1,000 annually, but no other salaries were paid by the society.

<sup>33</sup> Interview, H. A. Wallace, Editor, *Iowa Homestead* and *Wallace's Farmer*, August, 1931.

<sup>34</sup> Iowa State Department of Agriculture, *Iowa Year Book of Agriculture, 1911* (Des Moines: State Printer, 1912), pp. 133-134.

<sup>35</sup> *Ibid.*



grouping of Iowa-Chicago rates on cattle and sheep, so that the rate for sheep in double deck cars was the same as for cattle. It had secured a change in water at the Chicago Stockyards from the Bubbly Creek to lake water which saved a 25 per cent shrinkage in the animals; and finally it had been responsible for the establishment by legislative act of a Commerce Counsel who was to represent the people before the Railroad Commission or the Interstate Commerce Commission in all questions regarding rate disputes.

In addition to its efforts to obtain just treatment for the farmer in shipping, the Association strenuously opposed the activities of the Food Commission during World War I and in the post-war period. The opposition stemmed from the Association's interpretation of the Food Commission's attitude toward meat prices. The members of the Commission, claimed the Association, thought of all livestock in terms of calories and demanded that it be sold cheaply to furnish food for the needy. Without consideration of the producer, so the Association felt, the market price of livestock was forced down so that meat would be cheaper. As a result, the feeders lost staggering sums in the sale of their stock. The Association estimated losses on cattle from \$50.00 per head on baby beeves to \$60.00 per head on heavy beeves and, on hogs, about \$5.00 per hundred pounds.<sup>36</sup>

Another phase of this organization's work was an attempt at cooperative marketing. In 1907 the Association established a Cooperative Commission Board in Chicago. However, it was opposed by other livestock commission firms who organized a boycott against it. This action forced the Board to cease functioning within a year.<sup>37</sup>

The Association accomplished its best work between 1908 and 1920. Although it continued operation until the late 1920's, its importance dwindled. The last sig-

<sup>36</sup> Interview, Henry A. Wallace, Editor, *Iowa Homestead* and *Wallace's Farmer*, August, 1931.

<sup>37</sup> *Ibid.*

nificant action of this organization was to represent the farmers on a rate case in Kansas City in 1926.<sup>38</sup>

With the organization of the Farm Bureau in 1918 and the Iowa Cooperative Shippers' Association in 1921, the Corn Belt Meat Producers' Association gradually faded from the agricultural scene in Iowa. The members of the older Association were active in organizing the younger ones. At a Marshalltown meeting of the Farm Bureau the Corn Belt Meat Producers' Association was well represented. Mr. H. C. Wallace reported that the spirit of the meeting was reminiscent of the conventions of the Meat Producers' Association in its prime and he was very hopeful of the outcome.<sup>39</sup> The Corn Belt Meat Producers' Association felt that, since the Cooperative Shippers' Association would apparently duplicate its efforts to establish cooperatives and the Farm Bureau, its other work, its continuance would merely divide the farm membership. Consequently, it ceased its operation as an independent organization and its members became active in the new societies.

Three of these four farm organizations were primarily educational. The Corn Belt Meat Producers' Association was the only one which had economic activity as its chief concern. It is interesting to note that three of these organizations had the betterment of livestock and the improvement of the status of the stock breeder as their objectives. Improvement of grain and the grain farmers' status apparently was considered of secondary importance in the earlier period of Iowa's history.

All of these associations played an important part in Iowa agricultural history and through them the Iowa farmers received much information regarding methods of feeding and breeding of livestock; they also encouraged and aided the farmers in the development of better strains of corn. Undoubtedly the efforts of these organizations influenced the agricultural development of Iowa and aided her in becoming renowned as a hog and corn producing state.

<sup>38</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>39</sup> *Ibid.*

# Interview With a French Trapper

BY JOHN PATTEE\*

[A diligent search has been made in the documents of the Iowa State Historical Library to find a trace of the voyage of M. Cardinal and his companions, but nothing definite can be found. The only reference is contained in a general statement that prior to about the beginning of the century, French traders made trips through Iowa in pursuit of adventure, furs and gain. This is probably the first authentic account of one of the first trips up the Des Moines river, in which mention is made of the first log cabin ever built on the future site of the city.—The Editor.]

Thirty years ago next month I met Peter Cardinal near Fort Randal, Dakota. He was a very polite Frenchman, and after asking where I and the troops with me were from, seemed to be quite pleased to learn we were from Iowa, and said that he and about twenty others started from Mackinac in the summer of 1797 in canoes and followed the west shore of Lake Michigan to Green Bay and up that bay and the Fox river to Lake Winnebago, from that lake they dragged their canoes across to the Wisconsin river, which they followed to its mouth. They then paddled down the Mississippi to the mouth of the Des Moines, then to Raccoon fork (as he invariably called it) where they soon had some log cabins up for their shelter during the winter.

"Ah!" exclaimed the old man with the genuine enthusiasm of an old hunter, "that was a fine place for game—deer, turkies, mink, otter, beaver, wolves, and foxes, and we caught a fine load of furs for our canoes, and the next summer we returned to Mackinac."

The old man was sent to some other point to hunt and trap until the fall of 1802, he was again sent to the "Raccoon Fork," and hunted and trapped through the

\* From a letter written in February, 1892. The author was a brother-in-law of Iowa's Civil war governor, Samuel J. Kirkwood, and had served as auditor of the state from 1855 to 1859. He entered military service early in the Civil war, and in March, 1862, was an officer in the 7th Iowa Cavalry stationed in the Dakotas, where he chose to spend the remainder of his life.



winter following. In the spring of 1803 they again started for home. When near the mouth of the river he, with another man, was ordered to take a light canoe and paddle ahead a few miles and try to kill something for the party to eat.

The main party were to go on and camp near the mouth of the Des Moines on the right bank of the river. They succeeded in killing a deer and some wild turkey and followed on to find the camp, keeping close to the right bank. The moon was shining brightly but was well down towards the southwest, and part of the river was shaded by the trees, and they did not see the canoes until they were close by them. But just at that moment they heard a great outcry as from a thousand people, and knowing that it was Indians they slipped along past the camp for some distance and then crossed over to the north side of the river and secreted their canoe in the brush and made their way up along the bank until opposite the camp and saw a large number of Indians were dancing around a large fire and driving the party of trappers in advance of them. Supposing that their friends would be all killed when the dance was over, they returned to their canoe and moved down to the mouth of the Des Moines river and then up the Mississippi to where Keokuk now stands.

Hiding the canoe in some bushes, they went to the top of the bluff and secreted themselves where they could have a good view of the Mississippi down the river, they waited to see what might happen next.

About 9 o'clock the next day they saw the Indians together with their friends pop out from the Des Moines river and paddle down the Mississippi toward St. Louis.

These two men spent the rest of the day worrying over the sad fate of their friends and supposed they would never see them again, and thinking of the long and dreary days and nights it would take to reach Mackinac again if they should be fortunate enough to elude the Indians who lived in that dreary waste of wilderness that lay between them and their home.

When night came on they began their toilsome jour-

ney, deeming it unsafe for two men to travel by daylight, and thus they pursued their way, lying by during the daytime on some island and paddling up stream nights until somewhere near the mouth of Rock river, where one day as they were watching the river from their hiding place on a bushy island, they saw some canoes coming up the river. Secreting themselves at the lower end of the island where they could have a good view of the canoes as they approached, they waited. When they came near them they were surprised and delighted to find that it was their comrades, whom they supposed had all been killed.

Their friends had been carried to St. Louis and delivered up for trial for trespassing on the Louisiana territory by hunting and trapping. This was in the summer of the year 1803 just after our government had bought that territory. The court not only held that they were guiltless but made the Indians help to paddle their canoes back to the mouth of the Des Moines river, where they captured them.

The next year, 1804, Mr. Cardinal, with some of the same party, made their way up the Missouri and he remained there until I saw him and listened to his story as I have related it. He was a fine old man and I often listened with pleasure to his stories of travel while exploring that new country to the head of the Missouri river and to the mouth of the Columbia river.

Mr. Cardinal died at his home near Ft. Randall in the spring of 1864, just 60 years after he first ascended the Missouri river. What must have been his experience during that period of sixty years in the wilderness! To such as he we of the present day owe no small debt for his hard work in preparing the thousands on thousands of happy homes that now cover the land over which he traveled. He gave me much valuable information about the country, and I am still able to give the names of every river or creek from Sioux City to the head of the river in three languages, English, French and Indian as I learned it from him.

# Cedar Brakes and Hamilton Prairie

## A Century of Change in Iowa Pioneer Life

BY W. E. SANDERS, M. D.

Between two worlds life hovers as a star,  
'Twixt night and morn. Upon the horizon's verge  
How little do we know that which we are;  
How less, what we may be. The eternal surge  
Of time and tide rolls on and bears afar  
Our bubbles. As the old burst, new emerge  
Lashed from the foam of ages; while the graves  
Of empires heave, but as some swelling waves.

—From "Don Juan" by Lord George Gordon Byron

We shall call the small community with which we are here concerned, Cedar Brakes and Hamilton Prairie. Located on about twenty sections of land lying between Cedar creek and Coal creek, the area is approximately six miles long and four miles wide and extends from the old inland town of Hamilton to the Des Moines river, and diagonally crosses the eighteenth meridian that lies east of the present town of Bussey. It is half in Liberty township, Marion county, and half in Jefferson township, Mahaska county, Iowa.

It was originally settled by Protestant English, Scotch and Irish families who came west overland or by way of the Ohio river about the time the remaining Sac and Fox lands in Iowa were opened to settlement. Cedar Brakes and Hamilton Prairie may be defined as a single region geographically and socially. But its two parts differed considerably in their political and sectarian doctrines.

No matter from whence the early settlers came or what their political and religious faith, they were all bound for the cheap lands and free life which the Iowa prairie offered as soon as the Indians vacated.

Their history is a new Odyssey of pioneer families who grubbed, cleared, plowed and tamed their farms on the brakes and prairies. To them and their children

Range 18 west on Parallel 74 north between Coal creek and Cedar creek was to become a fixed meridian for the next half century.

Some of their descendants, now scattered widely from the Atlantic to the Pacific, have preserved commendable records of their families and have made them available to the author, who remembers almost everyone of them from the first through the third generation.

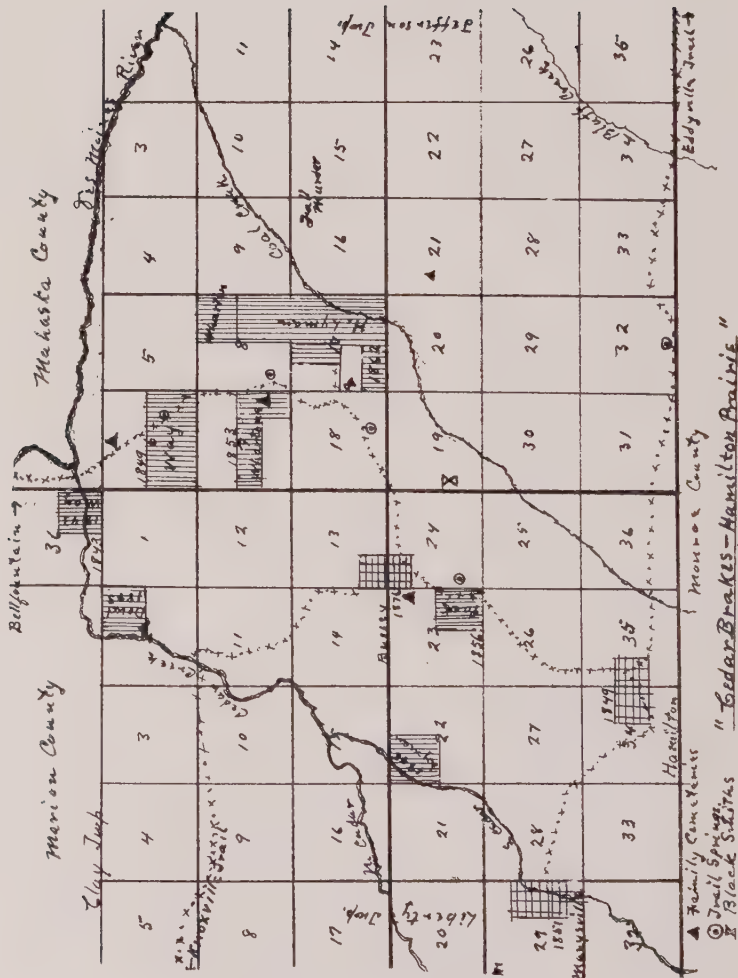
The style of presentation is not new. It follows the pattern used by the Greeks in recording the marvelous feats of their gods and heroes, and our Germanic forebears who related in verse the traditional tales with which their minnesingers flattered the vanities of regal lords throughout the feudal period. They sang of the yearning loves and gallant devotion of young knights in an age of chivalry; while we shall record the simpler joys of creative labor, seasoned and salted with the sweat, tears and loneliness of the early Iowa pioneer. They both reflect a new age.

The Des Moines river roughly divides the state of Iowa in half, flowing in a southeasterly direction. The roof of the drainage system in the southwestern half lies about fifty miles west of the river. The streams that come into the lower Des Moines from the west are creeks rather than rivers. They flow between prairie ridges running from southwest to northeast. Two of the larger streams are Soap creek and Cedar creek, the former coming into the Des Moines river at Eldon and the latter just below the old boat landing at Bellfountain near the present town of Tracy.

These two creeks seem to have been early Indian routes from the Des Moines to the Chariton river which flows south to the big bend in the Missouri above Jefferson City. Between the forks of the Cedar west of the old town of Marysville, the Indians had an early Stone-age industry, judging by the great number of stemmed spear and arrow points, heavy pottery and stone axes that have been found there. From the earliest historic times the Des Moines river and Cedar creek seem to have been the defense line of the Sac and Fox against the sedentary







"Cedar Brakes - Hamilton Prairie"

Sioux in Missouri who carried on a traffic with the prairie Sioux as far north as the Pipestone quarries in Minnesota. The Sac and Fox had well-traveled trails on both sides of the Des Moines river below Red Rock. They controlled the race course on the east bottom below Ottumwa and the much coveted hard maple forest near Eldon where they camped in the spring to make maple sugar.

It was from this region that Keokuk and the Sac and Fox nations were removed to Fort Des Moines when they ceded their land to the settlers May 1, 1843, to await final removal to the prairie of Kansas. This Second Sac and Fox purchase comprised an area of about twenty thousand sections from which later were established twenty or more counties, of which Mahaska and Marion were among the first showing purchase.

As the first pioneer families covered the last lap of their long trek from Ohio or Indiana, they must have noted the broad valley of the Des Moines when they forded the river at Eddyville and the coal measure that jutted into the ravines as they wound along the prairie ridge trail to Hamilton. Their interests, however, were centered on the surface of the soil and what they hoped to raise there. Along the margins of the hills they must have seen the boggy, smelly ooze out of which bubbled sluggish springs, quite unlike those they had known along the roads of the Cumberland mountains. It looked like the land of promise but the smell of the mud after the spring rains was more like that of the swamp lands of Indiana than the fragrance of the hills of New England and Pennsylvania. Some of the old ridge roads wound past springs on the prairie where as late as the early seventies, truckers and farmers halted their teams to drink and to feed on the lush grasses. (See Map.)

When the settlers began to sink wells in the prairie, they soon discovered that they rarely struck water until they reached a depth corresponding to the springs on the hillsides. At this level they often discovered a layer of gumbo or sand, sometimes interspersed with boulders, leaves and twigs and occasionally logs of spruce, several

inches in diameter. Since these were quite foreign to this region, the question was asked, "How did they get there?" The answer was often a theological one, "If God could make a tree, why could he not make a log under the earth as well as grow a forest upon it?"

When geologists later began to make their surveys of southern Iowa, they discovered that the rugged surface had been several times covered by huge polar ice sheets that edged their way southward from the Hudson Bay region, carrying exotic relics along for hundreds of miles. They noted, too, that it was the melting of these glacial ice sheets over a period of thousands of years that inundated the marginal lands and ground narrow frozen channels into broad undulating river valleys such as the Des Moines and its larger tributaries. By a trip of a few hundred miles into the forests and lakes of the Canadian border, geologists can still see this marvelous phenomenon after a hundred thousand years of lifeless frigidity.

Besides the stony bottomed fords and pebbled boat landings of the Des Moines river's tributaries, such streams as Cedar creek offered many advantages to the early settlers. A next to never failing water supply, the lower Cedar remained for half a century a remarkably good fishing stream, particularly during the spring months. With hook and bait a patient farmer might catch a few scale fish and a catfish on a rainy morning to break the monotony of corn bread, molasses and pickled pork diet with at least an occasional Friday fish dinner.

The pools of this stream were well suited to the washing of sheep before spring shearing. They were the rendezvous of the housewife's flock of ducks about the time their down was plucked for the baby's pillow. Cedar bottom was sufficiently forested to furnish posts, logs, rails and saw timber for the new rural community, and in its native state the creek provided water power for the operation of saw and grist mills. In fall and winter the woods were full of fur and game animals, and in the copses and thickets the prairie chickens



and the quail huddled together for protection throughout the long stormy winter. As late as the seventies a good hunter with a caller and a bird dog might get a turkey for Christmas.

There were hazelnuts, hickory nuts, butternuts, walnuts, wild berries, grapes, chokecherries, black haws, and an endless variety of wild plums and crab apples, some of which could be gathered and eaten almost any time from June till Thanksgiving. With a rifle, an ax, a few tools, a cow, some sheep and domestic fowls, a couple with good health and a will to work need not go hungry.

With an apprenticeship in practical living on their farm homes, young people on the frontier learned to do most tasks well, and soon after marriage became particularly resourceful in adapting themselves to the simple arts of living. They were generally thrifty and of good sturdy stock, else they would not have been pioneering on the prairie. It might be said of them, "The cowards never started and the weak died along the way."

The life they were undertaking was not to be easy but neither had it been for their ancestors, many of whom lived through the gloomy years of the Revolution and the frontier wars that followed. It had been a century in which Americans lived by work, not by wages and now they were ready for the great epic. It was an essence of the same spirit that prompted them to spill out over the Cumberland road into the Ohio valley almost before the smoke of the Revolutionary cannon cleared away; and to make their way into Kentucky and Indiana about the time Boone, Wayne and Harrison were driving the Indians beyond the Wabash. They were then to take the final leap across the Mississippi and establish homes on the prairie.

#### AN EPOCHAL ADVENTURE

The moon rose full over the eastern horizon of Hamilton Prairie on the evening of April 30, 1843. A few adventurers of the Iowa frontier had been scouting about

Cedar creek and the surrounding hills for a year or two, searching for the most suitable lands to build future homes for their families. Since the ice had broken in the spring three young men from a considerable distance down the river had been chopping down trees and hewing out logs with which to build their cabins as soon as the government at Washington would permit settlers to enter.

Iowa was at that time a huge territory extending from the Missouri line north to the Canadian border, including part of what later became the Dakotas. The little responsible law enforcement it possessed was administered by military units, commonly called Dragoons, and a few federal judges. For southern Iowa the seat of this jurisdiction was at Burlington.

The oldest of three adventurers was Stanford Doud, a square-shouldered man in his late thirties. He was widely experienced for his day, having been a frontiersman, a farmer and a small businessman in Pennsylvania and Ohio before he came west. He could trace his lineage in America to a reform Christian colony that settled in New England about the middle of the seventeenth century.

The next older man was Horace Lyman, a married man of English extraction whose ancestors had come to Massachusetts colony about 1640. He was born in the Finger Lake district of western New York soon after the War of 1812, not far from the Erie canal over which thousands of easterners a few years later made their way by the Great Lakes to the frontiers along the Mississippi. Horace was a muscular, angular-jawed six-footer with prominent ears that gave him an air of awareness of what was going on about him throughout his long and busy life.

The youngest of the three was Joshua Way, a spare, daring, hard-working man without formal education who had just rounded his twenty-first year. He was born in the wilderness of Wayne county, Indiana, in 1822, only a few years after General William Henry Harrison had finally defeated the Shawnee on the Wabash. In

company with his parents he had made his way to Van Buren county, Iowa, in 1837, the same year that Abraham Lincoln moved to Springfield. Joshua was only fifteen when the family reached Iowa.

Apparently not entirely satisfied with all that he had seen on the way west, he soon set out on the Indian trail north along the Des Moines river to possibly explore for himself the region about the mouth of the Cedar. It was at that time the land of the Sac and Fox Indians with government headquarters at Agency, near which the greatest of their chiefs and warriors, Black Hawk, was still living. This was five or six years before settlers were allowed on the lands and so Joshua soon returned to Keosauqua.

A few years later the two older men, Stanford Doud and Horace Lyman, arrived to establish their families in temporary quarters there. The new town was a friendly frontier village consisting chiefly of recent immigrants with common backgrounds and experiences. It is highly probable that the enthusiastic young Way regaled the Douds and the Lymans with what he had discovered up the river five years before.

It is known that Lyman and Doud came up the trail in 1842, built themselves a wickiup with poles and bark on the section where an Indian path crossed Cedar creek, and determined as soon as legally possible to establish their homes near there. They had been threatened by a small band of armed Indians who found Doud and a fellow adventurer, named Polly, hewing a canoe out of a log in the forest, and they had been chased by the United States Dragoons for trespassing on Indian lands before they were opened for settlement. Doud qualified for a homestead at the territorial land office at Fairfield in 1842, though he could not legally settle on it before the following year. No doubt Lyman and Way had secured like documents when the three came north on the trail in the spring of 1843.

When the hour of midnight struck, these three men made their way through the paths of the forest to stake out their homesteads in Section 36, Clay township,

and 2 and 22 in what later became Liberty township, Marion county, Iowa. The great era had arrived when history was to begin anew in south central Iowa. The first legal settlement on land of the Second Sac and Fox Purchase occurred by moonlight a few minutes after midnight, May the first, 1843.

Within a day or two the two older men made their way down the Indian trail to Keosauqua and their anxious families, while Josua Way remained on the brakes of the Cedar to defend their claims against all contenders. It was a tramp of three or four days with several streams to ford which might be roaring torrents in uncertain spring weather. There were perhaps a few squatters at the Ottumwa crossing, but they were probably otherwise alone in the wilderness. It required several months to fit out the two families for the return trip to the Promised Land.

It must have been a trying journey for the young wives and their children. The Dragoon trail from Agency to Fort Des Moines followed the east bottom of the river up past the old Hard Fish village where Eddy had his post. It then veered off to the ridge, not far from the present town of Pella, and came into Fort Des Moines from the east by way of Prairie City. Our pioneer families could follow this trail as far as Eddyville without difficulty and ford the rock bottomed river into Hamilton Prairie along the ridge of the Mahaska-Monroe county lines. How Stanford Doud and Horace Lyman got their families, teams, and belongings from Eddyville ford to their farm homesteads on Cedar Brakes we have no record. The terrain is terribly hilly and broken across Jefferson township, Mahaska county, and as late as the eighties was hardly passable with team and wagon.

A few other families were trying to get into Cedar Brakes about the time Lyman, Doud and Way were settling down on their homesteads. These pioneers probably assisted each other as the Mormon trains did a few years later when they crossed southern Iowa. A younger brother of Stanford Doud, Eliab, came with him to Van Buren county in 1842 and was with him and Horace Lyman in



one or two of their adventures on Cedar creek before they filed claim to their lands. Once when they were returning to Keosauqua on horseback, they narrowly escaped drowning when they swam their horses across Soap creek. Whether Eliab accompanied the Doud and Lyman families when they returned up the river to their new farms is not known.

Joshua Way married Elois Doud, Stanford's oldest daughter, soon after the Douds moved into their new log cabin. Later he became the richest farmer in Jefferson township. His possessions were in land and livestock, and no one ever accused him of having a dishonest dollar. At the end of his life about the close of the century, there was a tradition that when he first appeared in the community, he had an ax on his shoulder and only two bits in his pocket. Of the three men on the border of the prairie who went out at midnight May 1, 1843, to win the golden fleece, Joshua Way was the daring Jason.

The author's ancestors, the John Whartons, were pioneering in the bogs and forests of eastern and southern Indiana at the time Hamilton Prairie was being settled. They were the middle-aged parents of twelve sons and daughters, about half of whom were married and had young children of their own. The two older sons left their families in Indiana and joined the great overland rush to California in the summer of 1850.

Stanford Doud also went west to the diggings over the Oregon trail and John Lyman, a younger brother of Horace, sailed out of New York harbor and around the Horn to seek his fortune in the Golden West. These four enterprising souls, who within the next five years became pioneering neighbors on the Iowa prairie, may have met by accident near the Golden Gate and decided that Iowa, the beautiful, with its golden corn and autumn oaks and maples was, after all, the best place for free and honest men.

In the spring of 1853 Robert, the oldest of the ten living Wharton children, appeared at Hamilton Prairie and bought a homestead in Jefferson township before a fur-

row had been turned on Sections 7, 8, 9, 17, or 18. Within the next few years his parents and his nine brothers and sisters with their growing families, followed him.

During the great immigration into Iowa in 1856, another Indiana family appeared on the prairies and established its home on a beautiful ridge farm about two miles north of the new inland town of Hamilton. They were of Virginia extraction. The father, Abraham Pack, was born in Kentucky two days after Abraham Lincoln, February 14, 1809. He married his bride at Portsmouth, Ohio. Her parents, a Lee family from Virginia, lived near there. The Packs had eleven children who attained maturity, most of whom were born after they reached Iowa. They came overland by wagan train from near Edinburg, Indiana, and entered Iowa at Keokuk.

The Pack families that remained in the settlement were thrifty people who lived comfortably in the better farm houses and gave one the impression that they were more concerned with good and decent living than in growing rich. They seemed to have retained something of the plantation family spirit. All of the First Families made large and lasting contributions to the society of Hamilton Prairie.

The romantic historian will always be thrilled by the heroic spirit of the pioneers who surged into the western prairies before the Indian war whoop had fairly died away. They had all the courage and endured most of the hardships of the French fur traders in the forests and on the plains, and of the British commercialists who established their posts along the Atlantic and gulf coasts and the inland waterways of North America in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries. Yet they were not of the same piece. The Iowa prairie pioneers came to make homes.

They imagined their families would eventually become a middle class gentry, a miniature replica of the English landed class. Something akin to this had already been realized by the Dutch in New York and Pennsylvania, and by the colonial fathers along the Atlantic seaboard. It was a legitimate ambition as long as land remained the

basis of wealth. It had had the blessing of the church and the sanction of kings since the age of chivalry. Nothing was to be too good for the new sovereign citizen.

The primary sources of power continued to be, as had been true since the beginning of the early Iron age, the ox yoke, the water wheel, man himself and the soil. Supplemented by the skills of craft guilds and individual handicraft this might, as far as anyone could foresee, go on unchanged for centuries. With an established pattern of living and a vast new region beyond the Mississippi awaiting the coming of civilized man, nothing seemed impossible. With these sources of power at hand and the bounteous gifts of nature awaiting them, it is not surprising that young men and women of courage should have joined the great wave of migration now flowing into the West.

Since the close of the War of 1812 an ambitious young nation had crossed the continent to the Pacific; established its northern border at Parallel 39 and its southern at Key West and the Rio Grande; driven the Indians off two and one-fourth million square miles of land; successfully invaded and defeated its sister republic of Mexico, outsmarted the king of Spain in the trade for Florida; admitted two of its most promising possessions, Texas and California, into the new Union of sovereign states; and driven the Mormons beyond the western mountains to the shores of Great Salt Lake.

With these astounding national achievements taking place in a single generation, it would seem that an Anglo-Saxon people who had won their independence from the mother country by revolution and confirmed it by a second war, should have felt themselves secure any place the Stars and Stripes unfurled in the breeze.

#### SOCIAL PATTERNS OF A CENTURY

In this broad earth of ours. . .  
 Nestles the seed perfection. . .  
 Yet again, lo! the soul, above all science,  
 For it has history gathered like husks around the globe  
 For it the entire star myriads roll through the sky. . .  
 For it the real to the ideal tends. . .





their long history in America, they had a family background to maintain.

Not all their contemporaries or even their neighbors were so fortunate. Codes of morals and manners are the social distillates of an endless number of trials and errors in group living. They are basically subjective; even when formulated into laws and ordinances, they must respect the common will and enlightenment of their people.

The relationships of people, even in rural society, are quite different under modern industrial conditions from what they were a century ago on the fringe of the open range. Intemperate indulgences where they existed then were excused as personal vices; whereas now in broad segments of society they are accepted as social sophistications and give rise to jokes and laughter. To dip snuff and chew tobacco is now a social vulgarity, but cigarette smoking by both men and women, the cocktail lounge and drive-in theaters are relaxations from the stresses of modern living.

#### THE 1843-1875 GENERATION

By the middle of the fifties pioneer citizens were looking forward with assurance to a rich future in a peaceful society under law. The Whigs, the Democrats and the neo-Republicans all had panaceas for the many social ills that were arising in the new republic. The South with its plantations, debts, cotton, tobacco and Negroes, was clamoring for cheap money, states rights and slave labor. Free homesteads threatened to entice industrial workers to abandon their machines to enter the new landed gentry. The political fate of Kansas was held up for years, while the new state of Missouri permitted slavery. Folks of good will were beginning to wonder whether the individual state rather than the expanded sprawling nation might not better handle some of its social problems.

The population doubled in the second generation. New means of travel and freedom of association brought other changes. Men wielded hand tools when this period began. The same hand that dressed the grinding stones

for the grist mill set the water wheels in the mill race. It prodded the lazy ox along Indian trails and urged him forward as he turned the first furrow on the prairie. The same strong hand that swung the heavy ax that brought down trees to build the frontier cabin, soothed the crying child and blessed the flaxen head with a benediction. The same voice that greeted the neighbor on the road comforted the friend when in sorrow and, as a frontier magistrate, administered marriage vows to the new generation growing up on the prairie.

It was a harsh rude world but the pioneers living in it could be gentle and kindly. The same sense of mutual helpfulness prevailed among women as well as among men. A house raising, a husking, a threshing, a shearing, or a butchering had a community social value in which neighbors often shared. It was a moneyless economy based on barter and exchange of services and skills in which certain people excelled. It served to get things done without wages and it bound together the community as a whole. It provided a self-reliant people with subsistence needs, as well as shelter, care and entertainment without the strictures of class divisions.

During this first period the interest of the community in legal processes was pretty much limited to civil action involving small debts or minor damages. Most of these were handled by country squires as justices of the peace, who like the school director and the road supervisor, were chosen by their peers.

Justices of the peace and township trustees were provided with a copy of the code which if consistently followed through might lead these officers to new political offices in the state. Joseph Brobst, the first township clerk in Liberty township, in about two years became the first county judge in Marion county. He was a miller by trade and it would be interesting to review his decisions. John F. Lacey, brevet major, who represented the old Sixth Iowa district in Congress for more than twenty years, was a farmer and bricklayer before he enlisted in the Civil war.

One notes that through the embryonic period of frontier

society counties in Iowa were administered by magistrates with meager professional training. The clergy, the doctor, the jurist and the statesman were largely trained in the school of experience.

The first public road approved by the territorial commission was only eight miles, along the ridge from somewhere near the town of Attica to Knoxville. It seems to have been the route now followed by that lap of Highway 60. There was no provision for financing it. Like many of the early roads in the state it perhaps acquired legal status by statute of limitations.

A census of the newly formed territory of Iowa was made in 1838. The total population at that time was 22,859. Eight years later in 1846 when Iowa became the twenty-ninth state in the Union, the population had increased to 102,388.

Jefferson and Liberty townships were probably not definitely defined until 1845. This was two years after pioneers arrived and took possession of their homesteads. Voting precincts were established for the two counties, Mahaska and Marion, during the summer of 1846, but Iowa did not actually become a state until three days before the end of that year. In the first Liberty township election of which there is a record preserved, Horace Lyman was chosen township treasurer.

In the fall of 1856 when the author's parents ferried across the Mississippi at Burlington, the first steam engine on rails in Iowa ran three miles west from Keokuk to Buena Vista. By the end of the war trains were running on to Eddyville and from Rock Island to Des Moines. The days of the wood carvers, weavers and herb doctors were passing, and Hostetler's almanac was losing its lure.

During the Civil war years the economy was so much eased by good crops and high prices that a few of the better conditioned families were able to send an occasional son or daughter away to college. Two of these turned to the professions and of course left the farm.

## THE 1875-1905 GENERATION

By the early eighties life was a little more comfortable on our Iowa brakes and prairies. The infant birth and death rate was falling off. Nutritional diseases among infants and such community scourges as diphtheria and scarlet fever decreased somewhat. Large families became less common. Within one generation the birth rate of the first four families fell off fifty per cent, and it has declined slightly ever since among rural communities of English stock.

Childbirth continued to be generally attended by friendly neighbors or self-acclaimed midwives. It is doubtful whether the maternal or infant death rates would have been improved had there been doctors in attendance as nothing was known of the bacterial cause of disease or the use of antiseptics until about 1890. Tuberculosis continued to be the greatest community killer. Typhoid fever was a regular autumnal scourge.

State laws regulating the practice of medicine were passed in 1881. Thereafter a young man entering the practice of medicine had to be licensed by the state after graduating from an approved school of medicine. Bussey got its first licensed doctor about this time. It had a population of about one hundred but served a community numbering about fifteen hundred.

At the first religious service conducted in the town of Bussey, the young Methodist clergyman, J. H. Hard, chose his text from the book of Zacharia, "For who hath despised the day of small things?" Three years later in 1881 the first church was built and the author's father, Robert Sanders, was one of the trustees. The cost of the frame building was fourteen hundred dollars and it was dedicated free of debt.

Formal schooling during the first thirty years was very limited; both boys and girls married at a young age. The average school attendance increased in the next generation (1875-1905), to possibly the sixth grade and the marriage age to 20-23. It is doubtful whether this extension of formal education and the postponement of marriage influenced favorably or unfavorably the



social morals of youth as it contributed little to an understanding of the physical or spiritual self, although it did give additional time for sophistication. The last school in the one-room building in Bussey was taught by the author in 1891 with an enrollment of about seventy pupils. For this service he received thirty-two dollars per month which was applied on a medical education. The bank of Bussey opened in 1892 and has never closed its doors.

Even before the twenty-four or twenty-five sections of Hamilton Prairie were fenced in, it became apparent that about half of this acreage could never be brought into grain production, and as open land disappeared, stock range became more limited. Utopia was lagging far behind the dream. Blue grass came in about the time the chinch bug did and what was gained in forage was lost in grain. In the mid-seventies the price of grain and meat struck an almost all-time low. Even if there had been produce to sell, there was no market except huckstering among neighbors in an economy with neither credit nor money. It was into this vacuum that the third generation was born. In time it came to doubt the possibility of a Utopia in this realm.

In 1876 the first railroad and telegraph came through the community and put the population in touch with the outside world. When it reached the Des Moines river, white pine sawmills along the Mississippi river shipped train loads of dressed lumber west. The best farms came under cultivation and were fenced in, and the old prairie trails were abandoned for section roads. Frame schoolhouses supplanted the old log schoolhouses, and many farmers replaced their old log cabins with frame buildings. This gave rise to a new society in which carpenters, bricklayers and painters were paid daily wages.

The railroad split Hamilton ridge along the county line, from the margin of the prairie down into the Des Moines valley. The capital city was getting its fourth railroad and it came right through Cedar Brakes and Hamilton Prairie. After a generation it became a part of the world community.

Cedar hill with its high grade fixed the location of the town of Bussey. Locomotives had to divide their trains to get up the grade, and a switch on the summit of the prairie was inevitable. The railroad by-passed the old booming Cedar creek town of Marysville and determined the future of Hamilton. Henceforth the new town of Bussey was to be the metropolis of Liberty and Jefferson townships and much of the countryside beyond. If Bussey had had a good road to Eddyville, it might have become quite a little city.

Along the railroad switch, a station house, granaries and a lumber yard sprang up like mushrooms. A town of sixteen square blocks was laid out on the old James Rousseau homestead, at this time the home of Uncle James Bussey. The first train at the end of the switch one dark night was terribly frightening as the giant Cyclops glared down the track coming north from Hamilton. Unlike more familiar animals, this weird creature seemed to have no zoological harmony. A country child did not know but that it might jump the track and chase him over the prairie.

It was only about fifty years ago that the Cedar Brakes and Hamilton Prairie community discovered its greatest resource. The shaft mining of coal was its biggest business until petroleum and gas became a more acceptable source of power. The operation of powerful derricks, trucks and bulldozers by gasoline-powered motors not only transformed the economy of the community, but likewise the face of nature. Strip mining and coal trucking became its biggest business. With the increased use of mechanical power on the prairie, the number of people on farms has greatly decreased. The introduction of new methods of merchandising and accounting, and the widespread use of electricity and rapid transportation have brought all the people into contact with large industrial and commercial centers to which workers and traders can commute and still maintain homes in the rural community.

#### THE 1905-1945 GENERATION

Twenty years before the second phase of this rural

society came to an end about 1905, farmers had begun to learn that only the most favorably situated among them could do more than decently support a family on a quarter section of land. For the many who had less or none, there seemed no economic future open to their children. Except for the prairie farms, much of the naturally sparse loam on the land had washed away and there seemed no way to restore it.

Throughout its whole history the Liberty and Jefferson township sides of this rural community had been under separate political jurisdictions and the church people under different communions. Even the little town of Bussey could not quite overcome these differences. The fact that the school and highway districts were under different jurisdictions had disadvantages.

There was no bridge across the Des Moines river on the Oskaloosa road until the early eighties. This was a great disadvantage to farm families in Jefferson township. It also unfavorably influenced the education of the young people since Oskaloosa, like Pella, has provided college opportunities for young people since before the Civil War. The one convenience Bussey lacked most was a bridged and graded road into the large and well-to-do farming community beyond Coal creek. Except for the first mile the section line road going east from Bussey for four miles, was so rugged and hilly it was almost impossible for farmers to truck loads over it until the automobile age of the third generation arrived.

About the time of World War I the retirement of farmers and an influx of miners into Bussey brought its population to an all-time high of about a thousand. The inflationary boom of the war years gave a new impetus to community activity. Everybody bought war bonds while the drums beat loudly for the saving of democracy. Bank files accumulated the promissory notes of misguided farmers for the most fantastic schemes of corporate financing and stock promotion the country had experienced since the Mississippi Bubble. When the sifting-down period came in the early twenties,

the financial ruin of many rural communities was almost complete.

The prairie was still poor and, lacking tangible assets to support overlarge loans, escaped most of the catastrophies richer neighborhoods experienced. Conservative commercial banks survived because of good management and a solvent community.

The main thing that saved the third generation was its "black diamond" located in the earth. During and immediately following World War I the railroads and an expanding automobile industry maintained the market for steam coal, and the pay rolls of the miners and the highway workers saved the economy from ruin in the twenties.

In 1916 the Bussey community built a consolidated school with free transportation for students living in the rural areas of Liberty and Jefferson townships.

In 1927 the community united its two communions of Methodism that had split so badly during the emotional tension that preceded the Civil war, and enlarged and modernized its church building. A non-sectarian board administers a well-kept cemetery on the beautiful ridge adjoining the town over which the Red Man roamed a little more than a century ago.

It is here the spirits of the pioneers still keep watch and, when they speak, declare that now, as always, the richest treasure of the prairie ridge is its youth. From them emerge the farmer, the skilled worker, the businessman, the teacher, the soldier, the statesman, and the master craftsman of the arts and professions. Because of them civilization advances.

For the few who remain when Charon shakes the urn and convokes the Council of the Silent, may the bells not toll as they too, join the silent majority.

The wild geese and ducks, and the sandhill cranes with their same well-ordered figure in the gray-blue sky, fly north and south with each succeeding equinox; but the prairie and its people have greatly changed since the first three pioneers staked out their homesteads there, just after midnight, May first, 1843.



# Snakes in Madison County

BY EDITH WEBBER

Among the unattractive features of life in early Iowa, particularly in the southern and eastern parts of the state was the prevalence of rattlesnakes. These reptiles would not infrequently find their way into a settler's cabin and occasionally even into his bed. An incident is related of a rattlesnake which apparently about to attack a sleeping settler was seized and killed by his dog, though not before the faithful dog was bitten.

On another occasion a traveler who was passing through southeastern Iowa stopped one night at a cabin where lived two lonesome and disconsolate old bachelors. The guest was provided with supper but the bachelors refrained from eating. In the course of the afternoon they had killed more than 200 snakes and the thought of the squirming creatures had spoiled their appetites.

In Madison county snakes were particularly numerous. They frequented the rock ledges along the streams and there multiplied rapidly. Men wore leather leggings as a protection against them while women were terrified by their incessant rattling. One settler reported coming upon more than thirty snakes coiled up in the form of a ball. At another time two men killed ninety in an hour and a half. One man declared he had enough rattlesnakes on his farm to fence it.

While relatively few people were actually bitten by rattlesnakes, they were a constant menace. Boys who went barefoot in warm weather were in the greatest danger and had to be always on the alert. They could jump farther at the sound of a rattle than under any other circumstance. A plentiful supply of whiskey was thought to be the only cure for snake bite.

It's no wonder that the settlers got together and thought about some plan for exterminating snakes. At a public meeting sometime in the spring of 1848 a general snake

hunt was proposed. To increase the interest in the enterprise it was decided to divide the settlers into two groups and arrange for a snake killing contest. All those who lived north of Middle river constituted one company, while the settlers on the south of the river organized another company. William Combs was captain of one group, Ephriam Bilderback of the other.

To lend zest to the hunt each participant was to pledge a certain amount of corn as a sort of entrance fee, the whole stake to be awarded to the victorious company. The only regulations of the hunt were to go forth and kill as many snakes as possible. Each company was to keep within its own territory and all rattles were to be preserved as proof of the number of snakes killed. The Fourth of July was fixed as the date for the official count, and so the great snake hunt was launched.

Special efforts were made to get the rattlers before they left their dens in the spring, for it was the habit of rattlesnakes to hibernate in the rocky bluffs along the streams for the winter. When warm weather began in April or May, they came out on the sunny ledges in the middle of the day and crawled back into their dens at night. But as summer advanced, they left their winter habitation and scattered out into the brush.

The settlers were very busy every spring preparing the ground and planting their crops, but every noon on every warm day someone would go down to the snake dens to see if any of the reptiles were lying around in the sun. Usually some were caught. Of course the hunters were on the watch for snakes all the time, but on Sundays when their regular duties were not so pressing, they really worked at snake killing in earnest. It was customary to go armed with a club when watching the dens; a stick with a wire hook in the end was used to pull the snakes out of holes and from under rocks. Both companies hunted in earnest and rivalry ran high.

The Fourth of July, 1848, was a gala day in Madison county. All the snake hunters with their families gathered at Guye's Grove for the first celebration of Independence Day in that community. An ox was barbe-

cued for the occasion and Lysander W. Babbitt, candidate for the office of state representative, made a speech. But the event that attracted the greatest attention was the snake count.

A joint committee of two from each company was selected to count the rattles. Alfred D. Jones, a newcomer in the county, was appointed to act as clerk. The snake hunters presented their collection of rattles in bags, old pockets and stockings. When the count was completed, it was found that nearly four thousand snakes had lost their lives.

The north company won the contest, but the corn prize was never collected. Some say that the hunters were determined to have the corn ground at the mill and give the meal to a poor widow. Others say that the committee quarreled while under the influence of too much snake bite remedy.

At the barbeque a toast was offered to "the Captain and company of the Victorious Snaking Party. Their names will be handed down to future generations of Madison county for their snakish bravery."

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### Colesburg

The village of "Cole's Burgh" in northeastern Delaware county, one of the earlier settlements in Iowa, was largely the work of the remarkable Cole family. The widow, Andra Chase Cole brought her large family up the Mississippi by steamer from near St. Louis about 1835.

Hiram Cole, Liberty Washington Cole, and a son-in-law, Lawrence McNamee, helped to establish the town. Thomas Cole became postmaster in 1852, and James Cole who was also a surveyor, operated the mill after 1867.

## An Emigrant's Letter in 1840

The following letter, written by an early Quaker settler in Virginia, was submitted by Miss Alice Savage of Harvey, Illinois. It contains much practical information for the emigrant from the east, concerning travel, supplies, prices and opportunities for acquiring a homestead in Iowa.

To: Edwin Terrell  
Care of Walter Crew  
Mount Pelier  
Hanover County, Virginia                      8th mo, 12th day, 1840

Dear Friend,

I hasten to give thee what information I can relative to thy inquiries.

First, steamboat is the cheapest and most expeditious mode of traveling. There are two ways of traveling on boat, cabin or deck passage. Of course, deck passage is the most economical way where one finds his own provisions. And at all stopping places or towns along the river provisions are to be had.

The charge depends on the stage of the river (high or low water) from Wheeling to St. Louis, say from \$10.00 to \$12.00, sometimes a good deal less. I am not able to say precisely what the charge for cabin passage will be as the charge is very much decreased since I traveled that way. It's a pleasant and commodious mode. On these points thou can obtain information at Wheeling or Pittsburgh.



As for traveling it by land, its a way I never will try again though one may make it cheap enough by taking provision and feed along with them. They can be purchased all along the road, and what with yourselves and your necessary baggage, will be load enough for your horses on so long a journey. From Baltimore to Wheeling or Pittsburgh there are public conveyances via railroad or stage. Railroad is the cheapest and most comfortable.

Second query. Virginia money is very good, though to buy government land tis necessary to have specie, and no other will do except the bank of Missouri in St. Louis. While on the subject of money, I will just mention if thee could by Missouri bank bills in the east thee could make a good per cent by it as that bank is perfectly safe and good in the west, and then thee could draw on the bank for any kind of money.

Third. Wheat, corn, oats, rye, and barley are the grains raised here, though the price is very low owing to the pressure of the times. Wheat pays 30 to 37 cents in Burlington on the Mississippi river, corn is at 10 to 12 cents and other things in proportion, though when trade is brisk wheat is worth from 50 to 75 cents, corn 20 to 25 cents and oats 20 cents. Last fall heavy pork (say 200 lbs. per hog) demanded \$3.00 per 100 lbs. cash or goods. These hard times people have to take goods or produce. Money is very scarce here.

Raising tobacco would be the most profitable business. I consider this good tobacco country. I have raised some the last two seasons and as fine as I ever saw, not much troubled with the worm. I am satisfied if a man who is rightly fixed for it and understands the business would make money sufficiently fast. I believe it will bring \$3 to \$4 per hundred.

Fourth. As to the health of the country there has been

and is now, a great deal of sickness throughout, but in the main I consider it as healthy a country as any other. Indeed, very much so for a new country, much more so than Illinois or Indiana both of which states, I am told, are under a heavy visitation. I hear tis a common thing everywhere this season.

Fifth. I do not think there is any government land about Salem<sup>1</sup> without tis out in the large prairie without wood or water. And I doubt if there is any nearer than this place which is about 15 miles from Salem. I don't think improved or second hand land can be had for less than \$5.00 per acre, and much there cannot be had for \$10.00 or \$15.00 per acre, though at chance times one may come across a discontented fellow and make a bargain for the ready money. The county about Salem is thickly settled and in an advanced state of cultivation. There is a large meeting of friends<sup>2</sup> in Pleasant Prairie<sup>3</sup> which is about 7 miles north from here (25 from Salem) where second hand land may be obtained for say \$3 to \$5 per acre. Its a beautiful country and settling fast.

There is a small quantity of government land, about 200 acres, in this immediate neighborhood, of the very best quality and beautiful, as well as in a healthy part of the country. The only objection is a scarcity of white oak for fencing, but an abundance of other kinds such as Jack oak, hickory, basswood, elm, etc. There is a plenty of white oak land convenient to be had for money at \$3 to \$4.00 per acre. Thirty to fifty acres of good white oak is enough for a moderate quantity of fencing. Jack oak, not black jack, makes a tolerable fence rail.

Seventh. A man moving so far had better sell off

<sup>1</sup> Located in the southern part of Henry county.

<sup>2</sup> The Society of Friends.

<sup>3</sup> The second community of Friends in Iowa. Soon came to be called Pleasant Plain. Located in northern Jefferson county. See Louis Thomas Jones, *The Quakers in Iowa*, 1914.

everything that would be cumbersome. First rate horses may be obtained here for \$25 to \$50, and good horse wagons for \$50 to \$60.

Eighth. As to bringing out goods to do a business or sell for cash, I think it not advisable at this time as money is very scarce, but it would be an excellent plan to have goods to get work done. Its just as good as money for that purpose. In breaking land its necessary to have a large team of oxen, and goods are good pay.

I think \$150 in goods would be laudable sideline in the way I mentioned. They will not go amiss anyhow and thee might get some cash occasionally. There are a good many stores in the country. I would advise thee to lay in thy goods at St. Louis should thee take water. Thee can get them as cheap there as anywhere else, and by paying cash it used to be customary for the merchants to deduct 6 per cent. Cottons of all sorts would sell well, and a few bundles of spun cotton, calicoes, a few woolens such as fulled linsey and jeans, dye stuff, some light chinaware, knives and forks, sauspans, sharp shears, such light hardware as is in common use, and all kinds of groceries. I was going to say sugar, but there is so small a profit on it, and not very salable. Upper harness and sole leather have very ready sale. Leather will bring cash if anything will. Sole leather sells for 25 cents and harness for 33 cents per lb. I don't know how upper sells.

Be careful and get them as cheap as thee can as goods sell nearly as low here as in the east. I think a few saddles will sell well in barter, say 2 or 3, and a few blankets would be a good article. I would lay out more in leather than anything else. It's an article of prime necessity. Be sure they are all articles of good quality.

I don't know how thee could better dispose of thy money these times than to invest it in land. Its a sure

living at least, and with so small a sum where could thee buy land to so much advantage as in a new and flourishing country where land is cheap?

If thee brings goods thee had best to land them at Fort Madison, and put them in store until thou hast located thyself. Salem is about 25 miles from Fort Madison, and there thou can look for a place. There is a 20 acre piece in my neighborhood that has some improvements on it. The owner is willing to take goods as barter for the greater part. The limits of my paper do not allow me to say more that might be said.

Thine respectfully,  
Lewis Schofield

P.S. If thee can find thy way to my house I will endeavor to assist thee in thy enquiries after land. I live in Wilson's house. Find thy way to Wilson's prairie and enquire for me.



# Senator Allison Pays a Debt

BY FREDERICK F. FAVILLE\*

The first lieutenant governor of the state of Iowa was Oran Faville who lived on a farm near Mitchell in Mitchell county. He was elected in 1857. In 1860 he had an ambition to go to congress. In the Republican convention that year the contest was close between Oran Faville and a young lawyer from Dubuque named William B. Allison. Allison won the nomination and the election.

In 1870 Allison was a candidate for U. S. senator. At that time United States senators were elected by the General Assembly. The contest before the Thirteenth General Assembly was between Allison and Judge George G. Wright.

Oran Faville's brother, Amos S. Faville, was a member of the house of representatives from the district composed of Mitchell and Howard counties. It was assumed that he would "get even" with Allison for the defeat of his brother for congress. On the contrary he was an enthusiastic and ardent supporter of Allison. However, Allison was defeated in the Thirteenth General Assembly, but was elected in 1872 and began his long and illustrious career as a U. S. senator from Iowa.

Amos S. Faville dropped out of politics entirely. Oran Faville died. Years passed. In 1907 the Iowa delegation of congressmen and senators, all being Republicans, held a caucus in Washington to determine who should be recommended to President Theodore Roosevelt for various federal offices in the northern district of Iowa. Such was the ancient custom.

It was generally conceded that Edward Knott of Waverly, long-time friend and henchman of Senator Allison, would be reappointed as United States Marshal, and

\* The author was District U. S. Attorney for the northern Iowa district until 1913. He later served on the Iowa Supreme Court for 13 years, and was editor of the Iowa Code, and Supreme Court reporter before his death in 1954.

it was so. The selection of the rest of the appointees was not so easy.

Horace G. McMillan was United States Attorney from the Eleventh Congressional District, and Archie C. Smith from Storm Lake, also in that district, was Collector of Internal Revenue. Congressman Cousins had a candidate for United States Attorney in the person of M. J. Tobin of Vinton. Senator Dolliver and Congressman Birdsall favored Cady Chase of Webster City. Various names were discussed for both positions without arriving at a conclusion. The desire of all was to have complete unanimity in the selections finally made.

The tradition is that Senator Allison characteristically proposed a compromise and suggested that Cousin's candidate for United States Attorney be appointed Collector and that the attorneyship go to someone in the big Eleventh District. Congressman Hubbard from that district agreed to this and he was told to propose a man. He suggested the name of a young lawyer living at Storm Lake who had not been mentioned until then. He said this man's name was Faville. Whereupon Senator Allison said, "That must be a son of the man who voted for me for senator after I had defeated his brother for congress—I'd like to pay that debt now." And so Frederick F. Faville, the son of Amos Faville and nephew of Oran Faville, became United States Attorney for the northern district of Iowa, with Mr. Tobin appointed Collector of Internal Revenue.

Thus a "debt" nearly forty years old was paid in good measure by "the Grand Old Man" of Iowa. Who shall dare assert that politicians are ungrateful? Allison wasn't.

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Of course a woman doesn't want her plants to freeze, but still one can't blame a man for raising a row when he hops out of bed in the morning and finds a geranium plant in each trouser leg.

## Historical Materials Wanted

The Iowa State Department of History and Archives is engaged in preserving the story of Iowa. In achieving this high purpose a major objective is the gathering of historical source material—the substance from which history is written. The department solicits the active aid of Iowa citizens in gathering such materials as the following:

**DIARIES**, letters, account books and similar contemporary records of the pioneer period.

**BIOGRAPHICAL ACCOUNTS** of pioneers and of persons prominently identified with any phase or period of the state's development.

**MANUSCRIPTS AND PRINTED ARTICLES** on the history of towns, counties and sections of the state, and on the history of Iowa industries and institutions.

**REPORTS, YEARBOOKS AND PUBLICATIONS** of Iowa churches, professional and labor organizations, clubs, societies, and similar educational, cultural and fraternal institutions.

**HISTORICAL ACCOUNTS** and summary statements of banks, industrial plants, and business organizations.

**PHOTOGRAPHS** of Iowa pioneers and prominent men and women of every period; and pictures of towns, mines, mills, transportation agencies, etc.

**BOOKS AND PAMPHLETS** pertaining to Iowa and related history of the Mississippi Valley.

**IOWA NEWSPAPERS**, magazines, maps and prints.

**PIONEER RELICS**, historical paintings, mementos of historic events and distinguished Iowa persons, and other items suitable and desirable for exhibition in the State Museum.

**INDIAN ARTIFACTS** and handiwork.

All contributions will be suitably acknowledged and preserved as property of the state. Donors will merit the gratitude of present and future citizens of Iowa. The State Historical Building with its treasures, is one of the finest institutions of its kind. It belongs to the people of Iowa, and deserves their continued support and cooperation to acquire and maintain the sources of our heritage, a never-ending responsibility.

## *Iowa People and Events . . .*

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### Justice Deemer's Views

When Iowa's United States Senator Lafayette Young abandoned his candidacy for re-election by the Thirty-fourth General Assembly in 1911 because of failure to secure sufficient votes of the members of the joint convention of the General Assembly, friends of former Chief Justice Horace E. Deemer of Red Oak proposed his candidacy and presented him in the joint convention as such.

Governor B. F. Carroll had appointed Young to fill the vacancy occasioned by the death of Senator Dolliver in 1910. The Republicans being voted for in the daily sessions of the joint legislative convention in opposition to Young were former Senators Funk and Garst, former Speaker of the House Byers, Judge William S. Kenyon, general solicitor of the Illinois Central railroad.

The Deemer group believed that he could unify the opposition to Young, besides securing a large portion of his adherents. In this they were disappointed. He did receive the support of some of those previously voting for Young following the latter's withdrawal, along with a scattering of votes of a few others.

About this time Guy E. Logan, adjutant general of Iowa, phoned Emory H. English, then state printer, asking him to come to his office for a conference. Upon arriving there English found Judge Deemer with General Logan. Judge Deemer sought Mr. English's assistance in ascertaining if the dead-lock existing in the daily voting could be broken by consolidation of the opposition to Judge Kenyon who was leading, by supporting the candidacy of Mr. Deemer.

He asserted that in no sense should he be considered the leader of the Young faction, for he was just as much a progressive Republican as Senator Cummins, which Logan corroborated and Deemer further said that he was even more liberal in some respects; also that



together they would make a strong team in the United States senate.

The situation was discussed at some length, English finally expressing a willingness to sound out those supporting Republican candidates other than Kenyon as to possibilities in the situation and report. This he did, in the meantime consulting Garst, Funk and Senator James A. Smith, reporting later to Deemer at General Logan's office the unanimous disinclination of the men interviewed to consider the suggestion.

The daily meetings of the joint convention continued with a dead-lock existing until the last day of the legislative session when a sufficient number of those previously voting for other candidates assisted in the election of Judge Kenyon.

In support of Judge Deemer's own statement as to his being a liberal, another political incident is to the point, and supports this view. Governor William L. Harding appointed Truman A. Stevens of Sidney, as a justice of the Iowa Supreme Court. Following his retirement he remained a resident of Des Moines until his death. Stevens, Funk and English were friends, seeing each other often, and English one day happened to relate the Deemer incident.

Although more conservative in his views, Stevens expressed great admiration for Judge Deemer and his abilities. He then related that at the time when Deemer was being urged upon President Taft for appointment to the supreme bench of the United States, he had gone to Washington to see what could be accomplished to forward Deemer's interests and secure for him the coveted appointment. He stated that he accompanied Congressman Walter I. Smith of the old Ninth Iowa district to see the president, and they were cordially received.

Both Smith and Stevens outlined in detail their knowledge of Deemer's qualifications and urged the fitness of his appointment upon the president. Taft listened with most evident interest, and when they paused, said that he had given careful consideration to Mr. Deemer's fitness for the position and had checked his long and highly

creditable record, on the bench in Iowa. Also, he had taken the trouble to send for a number of the judge's opinions and read them, but had learned from them that Mr. Deemer was much too liberal in his views for him to be named as a justice of the Supreme Court of the United States. Turning to Judge Smith he said with his usual amiability that he hoped at some time he could favor him with appointment to one of the appellate courts of the country. And this was just what did happen before Smith retired from congress.

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### Seedcorn Specialist Sought Governorship

The testing of seed corn was a usual procedure late every winter in Iowa several decades ago. John Cownie of South Amana was a leading advocate of this annual procedure preliminary to the corn planting season. Prior to field seeding, he had corn kernels planted in strawberry boxes on the window sills at his home and in his office on the board of control at Des Moines, determining which specimens germinated most satisfactorily. He counseled all farmers to do this in order that the best quality of seed be used.

Ultimately the Iowa State College board of trustees at Ames secured an expert upon farm seeding in the person of Professor Perry G. Holden who greatly expanded seed corn research and experiments. He traveled about the state attending farm meetings and those of kindred rural organizations popularizing methods of seed selection.

In 1912, Governor George W. Clarke became a candidate a second time for the Republican nomination for governor of Iowa. Opposition developing, headquarters were established in Des Moines with Senator Anthony M. McCall of Woodward again chairman of the Clarke committee. Emory H. English and Ed D. Chassell devoted much time to the organization work, and E. J. Kelly of Perry came down and became the receptionist.

The "Capitol extension" issue was urged against Clarke. Harvey Ingham of the *Register and Leader* and Harry

Wallace of *Wallace's Farmer* did not favor the Clarke candidacy and were looking around for a candidate with whom to oppose him. Whether it was either of these or Judge C. G. Lee of Ames who suggested the availability of Holden has never been revealed but his candidacy was launched, backed by these three along with Ed T. Meredith of *Successful Farming* who was interested with Holden in an Idaho irrigation development enterprise. The pre-primary canvass developed some vigor particularly as both candidates were from the Progressive Republican group.

At this juncture Governor Carroll encouraged the launching of a third candidacy, that of Senator Aaron V. Proudfoot of Indianola, believing that Clarke and Holden would divide the Progressive vote, thereby insuring the nomination of the "standpat" candidate, not figuring that John Rowley of Keosauqua, also a "standpatter", would gather any strength among voters. Judge Lee became manager of the Holden campaign, and it developed into one of the warmest ever waged in Iowa, reaching into legislative fights against members who had voted for the "Capitol extension" bill. Clarke went into every county defending them and the desirability of the legislation, taking upon himself the responsibility for recommending the passage of the act, urging Republicans to keep their tried and experienced men in the legislature.

Clarke became the party nominee again with 89,107 votes, or 49 per cent of the total number cast; Holden had 68,801, or 37 per cent, while Proudfoot received 23,311, or 14 per cent.

Seedcorn experimentation and popularization did not become an issue in this campaign although Professor Holden acquired his initial acquaintance over the state from that source.

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### Those Golden Words of Wisdom

On his first trip through the Iowa state capitol building a visitor sees emblazoned in gold letters upon the coping band, walls and in corridors numerous heroic

utterances of the patriots of the ages. These were placed there at the time of the redecoration of the entire building in the early 1900's. State Senator A. B. Funk headed the commission.

Above the grand stairway at the east end of the first floor corridor and facing the large Blashfield painting, "Westward," are these quotations: On the south side is one by Patrick Henry—"No free government or the blessings of Liberty can be preserved to any people but by a firm adherence to Justice, Moderation, Temperance, Frugality and Virtue, and by a frequent recurrence to fundamental principles."

On the north side is one by G. W. Curtis—"Courageous confidence in the intelligence of the community is the sure sign of leadership and success." Underneath it is one by Solon—"The ideal state: that in which an injury done to the least of its citizens is an injury done to all."

Around the rotunda on the frieze above the columns appears the famous quotation by Abraham Lincoln—"That government of the people, by the people, for the people, shall not perish from the earth."

Above the door of the state law library entrance on the second floor appears William Pitt's immortal statement—"Where law ends, tyranny begins."

These historic declarations were selected by Governor A. B. Cummins upon the request of the commission in charge of redecorating the building. The governor said on recommending his selections that he had chosen such as would live forever in the minds and hearts of freedom-loving people.

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### Free Rides on Railroads

One of the methods the operators of Iowa railroads used to obtain influence in public affairs fifty and more years ago was the distribution of trip and annual passes, and mileage books for transportation over their lines. And it was a more systematic procedure than it sounds.

There was the custom of indulging employees in this manner. Railroad doctors and attorneys were considered



such although giving very little of their time to the companies. Moreover, in some sections of the state possibly every physician and every lawyer in the county through which the rail line passed was so favored. These in the aggregate constituted quite an army of friendly folk who could be called upon to return favors on occasion. And when delegates were selected by political parties to state and district conventions, lists of these persons were obtained by the railroad solicitors and those named who were not already recipients of annual passes were favored with trip passes to the city where the convention was being held.

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### Honoring Veterans

A newly elected officer of an American Legion post in Des Moines delivered a stinging rebuke to business and commercial interests of the capital city for not ceasing their routine activities on Veterans day last November, the occasion being the ceremonial memorial program at the spacious new city auditorium. "Business as usual" was rebuked.

The day now designated Veterans day formerly known as Armistice day, as such was established as a legal holiday in memory of cessation of hostilities in Europe preceding the close of World War I. Memory of this unfortunately has been dimmed since by two later wars taking toll of lives of Iowans and other American youth. The change in name designating the day recognizes this, and two generations and more of young people have flowered in America in the meantime.

Iowa and Des Moines never have been shown amiss in honoring veterans, but the "show must go on." The vast number of Iowa veterans of all wars were represented by far less than one hundred at the meeting where the criticism found utterance. But the building in which they assembled, costing millions to erect and equip, was constructed from tax-voted funds paid by Des Moines citizens, evidencing their attitude.

On southern battlefields of a Civil war in this country,

Iowa erected and dedicated to the memory of Hawkeye soldiery engaged in that sanguinary conflict numerous monuments commemorating the bravery of Iowa regiments there engaged. Just as families lose loved ones and struggle on, as immediate duties of the day make insistent call upon their presence and energies.

Really, it is when individuals or occasions are subjected to deliberate discourtesies that voiced criticism perhaps is more justified. Such an instance unfortunately occurred on a formal dedicatory trip of Iowa officials and public men, accompanied by leaders of the G.A.R. state organization. The Thirty-first General Assembly had appropriated about \$150,000 for memorials and markers commemorating the death, suffering and valor of Iowa soldiers on the battlefields of Vicksburg, Lookout Mountain, Missionary Ridge, Shiloh and in the Confederate prison at Andersonville. Authorized commissions appointed by Gov. A. B. Cummins from ranks of veterans of engagements at these several places and the prison had secured and erected appropriate monuments at each, and same were solemnly dedicated and transferred to officials of the states wherein located by the commissions and state officials present.

On one of these occasions a member of the party, in later years highly honored by Iowa, so far forgot himself by over-indulgence in liquor to a degree that his performance became a spectacle and reproach. Deeply chagrined, a dignified member of one of the commissions appealed to a state official to take the "offender against all decency and propriety" from the party and see that he was promptly sent home to Iowa. The individual was quickly separated from the official party for the remainder of the day, but not publicly rebuked for his flagrant abuse of complimentary privileges accorded to him; but he must have many times afterward sincerely regretted his unworthy action as a member of a party of Iowa citizens engaged on a mission of love and veneration.

## Iowa's Notable Dead . . .

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CHARLES EDWIN FRILEY, college administrator, died at Ames, Iowa, July 11, 1958; born in Ruston, Louisiana, August 27, 1887, the son of William Christopher and Ellen F. Friley; graduated from Sam Houston Teachers College in 1905, attended Baylor University for two years, and taught in the public schools of Texas and Louisiana from 1907 to 1910; received his bachelor of science degree from the Agricultural and Mechanical College of Texas in 1919, named registrar there the same year, and became dean of the school of arts and sciences in 1924; married Nina Lynn Wood, June 21, 1913, and following her death, October 28, 1918, married Vera Foreman, June 21, 1921; received the Master of Arts degree from Columbia University in 1923, the doctor of laws degree from Hardin-Simmons University in 1929, and studied summers at the University of Chicago from 1926 to 1931; was visiting professor of education there during the summers of 1930 and 1931; became dean of the division of science at Iowa State College in 1932, and in 1935 was advanced to vice-president before becoming president in 1936; retired as president emeritus in 1953; awarded honorary degrees by Texas A. and M., Cornell College and Iowa State College; active member of the Association of Land Grant Colleges and Universities, and the American Council on Education; served as president of the North Central Association of College and Secondary Schools 1942-43, and was president of the American Association of College Registrars in 1929; was vice president of National Council Presbyterian Men; member of the Masonic Lodge, the Rotary Club, and a Democrat; contributed many articles on college administration to professional journals; survived by his wife, Magdalen, two sons, Charles Jr. of Allegan, Michigan, William of Alberta, Canada, and one daughter, Mrs. Stuart Kuyper of Pella, Iowa.

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ISRAEL ALEXANDER SMITH, editor, attorney, church leader, and former legislator, died at Bethany, Missouri, June 14, 1958, following a highway accident near Pattonsburg; born at Plano, Illinois, February 2, 1876, the son of Joseph and Bertha Madison Smith; moved with his parents to Lamoni, Iowa, in 1881, graduating from Lamoni High School in 1898, and attending Graceland College for two years; engaged in sales and insurance work, being manager of the Pentol Paper Company from 1902 to 1905, and did telephone work in Pennsylvania, Ohio and West Virginia for three years; performed editorial duties for the *Saints' Herald* from 1908 to 1914; repre-

sented Decatur county in the 34th General Assembly, admitted to the Iowa bar in 1912; for several years acted as private secretary to his father, president of the Reorganized Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints; served as mayor of Lamoni, township clerk, town clerk, and as a member of the school board; practiced law in Independence, Missouri, following his father's death, and located briefly in Toronto, Canada; became a member of the stake high council in Independence in 1915, and called to the office of counselor to Bishop Benjamin R. McGuire, the general church Bishop, in April, 1920; had been president of the Reorganized Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints since 1946; married to the former Nina Grenawalt, and had two sons, Joseph Perreine, and Donald Carlos.

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MOTHER MARY GERVASE TUFFY, educator and former superior general of the Sisters of Charity of the Blessed Virgin Mary, died at Dubuque, Iowa, July 27, 1958; born in Scranton, Pennsylvania, May 27, 1865, the daughter of Michael and Elizabeth Tuffy; educated by the Sisters of Charity, entering their novitiate in 1887; taught in the schools of her Institute in Iowa, Illinois, Missouri and Montana; served as superior of St. Raphael's school in Dubuque from 1900 to 1906, and of St. Joseph's school in Butte, Montana, from 1909 to 1915; was mistress of postulants from 1915 to 1919; president of Clarke College, then St. Joseph College, until 1925 when elected to the General Council of the Congregation; elected superior general of the Institute, serving two six-year terms before again being elected to the General Council; retired in 1947 because of failing health; extended the apostolate of her order to the Negro and introduced practice teaching for senior novices; opened nineteen schools of the order; survived by two sisters, Sister Mary Ignatius of Dubuque, and Mrs. Walter B. McShane of Cleveland, Ohio.

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HERMON PORTER WILLIAMS, minister, missionary, educator, and Spanish-American war chaplain, died July 21, 1958, in Albuquerque, New Mexico; born at Iowa City, Iowa, February 16, 1872, the son of James Madison and Augusta Williams; graduated from the University of Iowa, attaining Phi Beta Kappa, in 1895, obtained a B.D. degree from Drake University in 1896, and ordained minister of the Disciples of Christ church the same year; located at Ames, Iowa, as pastor of the Christian church before enlisting as a private in the Iowa National Guard upon the outbreak of war, was shortly commissioned regimental chaplain and served with the Fifty-first Iowa Volunteer Regiment, through the Philippine Insurrection of 1899; married Beulah MacFarland, October 12, 1898; returned to the



Philippines to do pioneer missionary work until 1910, contracted tuberculosis and forced to homestead in New Mexico, ministering to the Jicarilla Indians, was also pastor of the Broadway Christian church in Albuquerque until 1914; served two years as dean of Spokane University, and was pastor of the First Christian church in Tacoma, Washington, from 1916 to 1922; assigned by the Y.M.C.A. for six months as preacher and lecturer to troops in Europe during World War I; directed the Bible Foundation at the State University of Washington for two years, receiving an M. A. degree there in 1919; became pastor of the Park Avenue Baptist church in Paterson, New Jersey, in 1924, and of the Calvary Baptist church in Westwood in 1930, earning the Th. M. and the Th. D. degrees from Drew Theological Seminary during that time; retired to New Mexico in 1940; translated several church works into native languages; survived by his wife, Myrtle, and three children, David of Gainesville, Florida, Mrs. Winifred Williams, of Pasadena, California, and an adopted son, Lyle, in Ohio.

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MRS. TONI WENDELBURG, conservationist and retired school teacher, died in Des Moines, Iowa, May 13, 1958, at the age of 90; born in Ottawa, Illinois; graduated from the former Milwaukee Seminary at Milwaukee, Wisconsin, and came to Des Moines in 1905 to instruct the first girls' physical education classes at West high school; later taught at Cooper, Grant and Phillips elementary schools in Des Moines; became well-known for her effectiveness in imparting a knowledge and appreciation of nature lore to her classes; the wild life preserve surrounding her home was greatly appreciated by students and conservationists; was a charter member of the Des Moines Audubon Society, and a board member of the Federated Garden Clubs of Iowa; served as regional director and guardian for the Camp Fire Girls; received a national first prize for an essay on conservation from the National Council of State Garden Clubs, Inc., and held the Honor Award of the Iowa State Horticultural Society; retired from teaching in 1933; survived by three daughters, Mrs. Ray E. Sterrett of Des Moines, Mrs. Hertha Black of Denver, Colorado, and Mrs. Vilma Shaffer of Phoenix, Arizona; and one son, Alfred Wendelburg of Miles City, Montana.

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NEHEMIAS TJERNAGEL, farmer, writer, and composer, died at Story City, Iowa, May 17, 1958; born at Story City, March 28, 1868, the son of Ole Andreas and Martha Tjernagel; attended the township school, and enrolled at Iowa State College at Ames for a short period; an interest developed in community musical organizations led him to Norway to study in 1892, and later at the Leipzig Royal Conservatory; compelled to give up

his studies by ill health, traveled extensively in Egypt and Palestine, returning in 1895; went abroad again in 1910 for further study and travel in the Scandinavian countries; farmed in partnership with his brothers, Peter and Martin, until 1953; active in the work of St. Petri and Bethany Lutheran congregations; composed hymns, songs, marches, and other pieces that have been on the repertories of soloists, choirs, and bands in both Norway and America; first published literary works were accounts of walking trips taken during his foreign travels, later wrote many essays on Iowa pioneer life which have appeared in state historical journals and local publications; in 1955 many of his short articles concerning religion, having previously been printed in church papers and religious journals, were edited and published in a small volume under the title, "Contributions to Church Periodicals"; survived by one of two sisters, Bertha Tjernagel, and one of four brothers, Martin, both of Story City.

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FREDERIC MAGOUN MILLER, attorney and judge, died in Des Moines, Iowa, June 8, 1958; born February 18, 1896, at Des Moines, the son of Jesse A. and Emily Magoun Miller; graduated from North high school in 1914, attended Grinnell College before entering the United States Army in 1917, received his law degree from the University of Iowa in 1922; married to Margaret Littleton, September 8, 1922; practiced law with his father until 1929, then was a member of the Miller, Miller & Miller law firm for nine years; elected to the Iowa supreme court in 1938, re-elected in 1944, returning to private practice in 1946; active in the American Bar Association, and president of the Iowa association in 1945-46; lecturer on appellate procedure at the Drake University law school since 1948; member of Phi Beta Kappa, various Masonic orders, and the Pioneer Club; widely-known in Republican party circles, and member of the Plymouth Congregational Church; survived by his wife, one son, Frederic L., two daughters, Margaret Ann Wagner, and Rosemary Miller, two brothers, a twin, Alex M. Miller, and J. Earl Miller, all of Des Moines.

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ALFRED LOWRIE FRISBIE, retired editor and newspaperman, died at Grinnell, Iowa, February 28, 1958; born November 18, 1877, in Des Moines, Iowa, the son of the Rev. A. L. Frisbie and Martha Crosby Frisbie; graduated from West high school in 1896, and from Grinnell College in 1900, there named to Phi Beta Kappa, served as editor of the college paper, and was a star football player; married Margaret Scammon of Northwood, Iowa, October 28, 1908; began his newspaper career with the *Fort Dodge Messenger*, and after three years there, joined the staff of the *Des Moines Register and Leader*, eventually

becoming its city editor; returned to Grinnell in 1907 to work on the *Grinnell Register*; became editor of the *Grinnell Herald* in 1909, and was a partner of Publisher W. G. Ray when the two papers were consolidated in 1936; gained statewide renown for his editorials; active in college alumni work as a trustee on the Grinnell College board, and faithfully attended most of the school's theatricals, convocations, music and athletic events; had a strong appreciation for music, singing in college groups and the Congregational church choir for many years; also was long a moderator in the church and a member of its board; active in many community and civic affairs, serving as president of the Kiwanis Club, director of the Chamber of Commerce and Community Chest, and president of the Poweshiek county Red Cross; named an "Iowa Master Editor-Publisher" by the Iowa Press Association in 1953; retired in that year but continued to write special articles for the paper; survived by his wife, and a son, Alfred Lowrie Frisbie, Jr. of Council Bluffs, Iowa.

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THOMAS JOSEPH GUTHRIE, attorney and former district judge, died July 23, 1958, in Des Moines, Iowa, at the age of 81; born in Elkhart Township, the son of John and Mary Guthrie; taught rural school there before studying law at Drake University, passing his state bar examinations in 1903; worked in the law offices of A. B. Cummins while attending law school; elected Polk county attorney in 1909, appointed Polk county district judge in 1916, and returned to private practice in 1920; served as president of the Iowa Bar Association, held several offices in the American Bar Association, and was president of the American Bar Foundation; was attorney for the Des Moines Roman Catholic Diocese; member of Kiwanis and Knights of Columbus; director of the Southside Community Center; married to Agnes Hogan who died in 1950.

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WILLIAM AVERY SMITH, Iowa supreme court justice, died June 10, 1958, at Dubuque, Iowa; born in Andalusia, Illinois, November 19, 1870, the son of William and Cynthia Smith; moved to Toledo, Iowa, with his parents in 1884, graduated from the Toledo High School in 1886, and Western College there in 1890; taught commercial subjects at Western for two years, and helped organize the Tama-Toledo Electric Railway and Light Company; married Martha G. Lichtenwalter at Toledo in 1894; received his law degree from the State University of Iowa in 1898; practiced law in partnership with Frank O'Connor at New Hampton, Iowa, for twenty years, moved to Dubuque in 1918 and joined the Hurd, Lenahan, Smith and O'Connor law firm, which had the longest record of continuous law practice in Iowa; president of the Iowa Bar Association 1941-42, receiving



its highest honor, the Award of Merit, in 1950; elected to the Iowa Supreme Court in 1942, re-elected in 1948 and 1954, noted for his precise and clearly worded opinions; served as president and director of the Dubuque Chamber of Commerce, was a trustee of Dubuque county tuberculosis sanitorium; survived by his wife and one son, Paul F. Smith of Toledo.

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CHARLES ALMON DEWEY, attorney and retired federal judge, died at Des Moines, Iowa, March 2, 1958; born in Washington, Iowa, September, 11, 1877, the son of Almon Ralph and Sarah (Rousseau) D. Dewey; graduated from the Oberlin Academy, Oberlin, Ohio, in 1897, and attended Oberlin College there for two years, served in the 50th Iowa Infantry in the Spanish-American war, returning to earn a law degree at the University of Iowa in 1901; married Jessie Irene Laffer of Sigourney, Iowa, September 1, 1910; practiced law in Washington for several years, was city attorney from 1905 to 1909, and county attorney of Washington county from 1909 to 1915; was a lieutenant and adjutant in the cavalry during the Mexican Border war; named judge of the sixth Iowa judicial district in 1918, appointed to the federal bench by President Coolidge in 1928; was an associate of Judge Martin J. Wade of Iowa City, and upon his death in 1931, assumed the full judicial load of the United States district court for the southern district of Iowa; following his retirement in 1949, was called upon to fill temporary assignments with the eighth circuit court in St. Louis, Missouri, in 1950, the federal district at New York in 1951, and the district at Miami, Florida, in 1952; became well-known for his firmness and dispatch in operating his courtroom; member of the Rotary club, the Methodist church, and a Republican, was Grand Master of the Masons in Iowa from 1920 to 1930; survived by his wife, and a son, Almon Rousseau.

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# IOWA STATE DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY AND ARCHIVES

Claude R. Cook, Curator  
Des Moines

An institution of the State of Iowa, located at the seat of government, established as a department of the State in 1892, and administered by a Curator elected by a Board of Trustees composed of the Governor of the State, a Justice of the Iowa Supreme Court and the Superintendent of Public Instruction. It consists of the following divisions:

The Public Archives of the State of Iowa

The State Census Records of Iowa

The War History Division—Iowans in Four Wars

The G.A.R. Collection

The Portrait Gallery of Iowa, exhibiting oil portraits of the outstanding men and women who have contributed to Iowa culture, official life and progress.

The Museum Division: Indian, geology, pioneer life, transportation, and natural history collections and exhibits

The Iowa Historical and Genealogical Library

Publication: *ANNALS OF IOWA, a Magazine of History*

The Newspaper Division—Files of Iowa newspapers and periodicals from territorial days to the present

The Manuscript Collection including papers, addresses, documents and correspondence of eminent Iowans, supplying unrecorded chapters in state history

In the interest of preserving Iowa history, the Curator solicits the presentation, to the Manuscript Collection, of letters, diaries, family histories, and general manuscripts about Iowans and institutions in the area of which the state is a geographical part.

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## ANNALS OF IOWA

In the more than half a century the *ANNALS OF IOWA* has been published, it has been a repository for, and made available, a vast amount of valuable data on the history of the State otherwise not accessible. The securing of material, and editing and supervising its publication, is a part of the immediate task of carrying on the work of the Department in harmony with established traditions.

Bound files of the publication are preserved in countless libraries of the State, and may be consulted by those engaged in research and historical writing.

